

HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

2004



Published by

THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA

HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEET OF
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Printed at the Vasanta Press
The Theosophical Society
Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Presidential Address 2004.....	1
Treasurer's Report 2003-2004.....	18
Headquarters:	
Officers and Heads of Departments for 2004.....	33
Summary of Statistics, 2004.....	34
The Theosophical Publishing House.....	35
The Adyar Library and Research Centre.....	35
The School of the Wisdom.....	36
Archives and Museum.....	36
Olcott Education Society.....	37
Besant Scout Camping Centre.....	38
The Theosophical Order of Service.....	38
Reports of General Secretaries:	
Africa, East and Central.....	43
Africa, Southern.....	43
Africa, West.....	44
Argentina.....	44
Australia.....	45
Belgium.....	46
Brazil.....	46
Colombia.....	47
Cuba.....	47
England.....	47
Finland.....	48
France.....	49
Germany.....	49
Greece.....	50
Iceland.....	50
India.....	51
Indonesia.....	52
Italy.....	52
Mexico.....	53
Netherlands.....	53
New Zealand.....	54
Philippines.....	54
Portugal.....	55
Puerto Rico.....	55
Spain.....	56
Sri Lanka.....	56

Reports of General Secretaries (contd.):

Sweden.....	57
Switzerland.....	57
United States of America.....	57

Reports of Organizing Secretaries:

America, Central.....	59
Austria.....	59
Canada.....	59
Chile.....	60
Ireland, Northern.....	60
Ivory Coast.....	61
Norway.....	61
Scotland.....	61
Slovenia.....	62
Togo.....	62
Uruguay.....	63
Wales.....	63

Reports of Presidential Representatives:

Asia, South-East.....	64
Bolivia (and Paraguay).....	64
Costa Rica.....	64
Hungary.....	65
Ireland, Republic of.....	65
Pakistan.....	66
Peru.....	66
Russia.....	66
Venezuela.....	67

Reports of Lodges Attached to Adyar:

Israel.....	68
Japan.....	68
Korea.....	69
Singapore.....	69

Reports of Federations:

European Federation.....	70
Indo-Pacific Federation.....	70
Inter-American Federation.....	70
Pan African Theosophical Federation.....	71

Directory.....**Minutes of the General Council.....**

Presidential Address

To the 129th Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society

Adyar, 26 December 2004

It is with great joy that I warmly welcome all the delegates present at this 129th International Convention at Adyar. It is indeed a pleasure for us to receive at Headquarters representatives from many overseas countries and Indian members from every part of India. On behalf of the Officers of the Society and the staff and workers here at Adyar, I wish you all a happy time, and inspiration to serve our Society and the world with greater wisdom and dedication. Let us turn to our Elder Brethren whose compassionate care and blessings our Society has been enjoying during the 129 years of its existence. Please rise:

May those who are the embodiments of Love immortal bless with their help and guidance this Society, founded to be a channel for their work. May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it with their Power, and energize it with their Activity.

According to HPB, the person who leads a pure unselfish life, who finds more joy in helping others than in receiving help, and who is ready to sacrifice his own pleasure for the sake of the rest of the world, is a theosophist. This implies that theosophical living is a responsible way of relating oneself to all of life. Being unselfish, rejoicing in being of help to others, and readiness to make sacrifices on their behalf are all essential aspects of right relationship. The word 'dharma', which occurs in the motto of our Society, could be translated as this feeling of universal responsibility, although no suitable synonym seems to exist to denote the word's rich content. According to ancient tradition, the practice of dharma, which is the fulfilling of responsibility,

is the basis for spiritual freedom, moksha or liberation.

Today's world is rampant with injustice because young and old alike have made pleasure and gain the primary aims of life. Consumerism urges everyone to pursue satisfaction of personal wants, and not general welfare. The adoption of this ideology has been promoting worldwide irresponsibility in all the departments of human life. Acts of violence, whether by individuals or by nations, some comparatively mild and others vicious, are on the increase, demonstrating that the feeling of responsibility is dead or dying. As violence increases globally, one of humanity's most important characteristics, the capacity for rational and responsible thinking and action, is also declining.

True religious teachings in every age and society have incorporated within them the message of dharma and inspiration for people to live responsibly. In recent times His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Krishnamurti have reasserted the truth that responsibility is universal. It is not an injunction or an idea, but a call to spiritual living fostering a deep concern for the total welfare of the earth and its inhabitants. When the Theosophical Society was established, it was clearly stated that the Theosophist must be prepared for sacrifice, philanthropy, altruism and universality, abandoning personal, self-interested living.

Responsibility involves restraint. This has been briefly and impressively pointed out in short and highly meaningful words by the *Isa Upanishad*, which proclaims that the entire universe is the dwelling of the One Supreme Power and therefore restraint is called for in our attitude towards all that exists in the cosmos. In fact, all cosmic laws seem to have restraining features built into them. The law of gravity for instance compels everything to remain and function in its proper place. Therefore, objects do not move about arbitrarily or chaotically. The stars remain on their courses. Our feet are firmly planted on the earth, and a pen on the desk or a car in a parking place stay where they are put. At the moral level, the law that keeps order and regulates relationships is the Law of Karma. Like every other law, its effect is to restrain. Certain boundaries are maintained within which all actions intended to satisfy

personal desire or individual will must be contained. Deep study reveals that the Divine Purpose is to bring about universal welfare and progress and therefore at the individual level there must be restraint.

Man has been called the only free agent in Nature. He has been endowed with the faculty of discernment or *viveka* and is free to do right or wrong according to his understanding and choice. But most often ignorance, which is a synonym for selfishness, blinds him and he generally chooses to act irresponsibly and do wrong. Then he suffers the consequences of violating the principle of restraint embodied in the very structure of the universe and enforced by its laws. Most, if not all, of the travail and agony that pervade the earth are caused by selfish and irresponsible thinking and action on the part of men. Man's freedom to choose and act is not Nature's sanction for unlimited self-promotion and indifference to the welfare of others. This truth is included in the meaning of the word 'dharma', which denotes not merely the following of a traditionally dictated set of duties, but refers to a state of mind characterized by such a complete sense of responsibility that it puts a brake on selfish propensities. This is the beginning of the spiritual life in the deepest sense of the term.

The modern lifestyle, which is devoted to seeking maximum pleasure and comfort, sanctions the earth's exploitation and pollution. A recent report says that such huge quantities of toxic materials are being continually dumped near Naples that only if Mt. Vesuvius erupts is there hope of it

being destroyed! Poor countries are being tempted into receiving vast amounts of toxic waste. Garbage is accumulating on Mt. Everest, and the earth — a living thing — is being ruthlessly ravaged by human beings who destroy forests, poison the air and drive other species to death. We are not learning to give, but are intent on taking. We do not wish to sacrifice even a few of our pleasures, but ask for more and more, not caring that our home, the earth, has become an unhealthy place.

The theosophist on the other hand, must be a true protector of the environment, setting an example of simple living, reducing wants and putting a limit on the desire to follow the rest of the world. As the above-quoted Upanishad advises, the theosophist must open his heart to the hidden Power which makes all the earth holy.

Similarly, it is the responsibility of us human beings not only to protect all the members of the animal kingdom, but to help them to develop according to the Divine Plan through affection and trust, and not through fear instilled within them by the human community. It is the duty of a theosophist who understands something of the course of evolution to help the world to realize that ill-treatment of animals on a vast scale, such as we see now, does enormous harm in two ways, apart from causing distress to these poor creatures: firstly, cruelty deprives the human consciousness itself of its basic humanness; and secondly, large numbers of future humans who have individualized through fear and hatred, will

populate this world and make it unhappier as a result of our irresponsible behaviour. So the consequences of not doing our duty as elder brothers of the animal kingdom will be far graver than is realized by people in general.

The expression of Theosophy in daily life is tantamount to learning the art of living or, as Masons would say, becoming proficient in the craft of life. This requires skill, and skill is connected with the kind of vision one has of what to do. The skill needed by a surgeon is not the same as the skill acquired by a carpenter. Skills must be related to the purpose.

Our purpose is obviously to bring about happiness and peace for all creatures and growth in spiritual knowledge and spiritual love for all human beings. To state our duty briefly, the skill of a theosophist must seek to bring about what is right and beneficial from the evolutionary point of view for all beings from plant to man. The word 'skill' has a resonance in the context of spiritual unfoldment that it does not have in ordinary terminology. Right action is benevolent and beneficent action. Right views, right thoughts, right feelings — a general rightness in the mode of living — are part of the skill that is connected with the practice of yoga. They are all part of one integrated awareness, which is succinctly stated in *Light on the Path*: to work for self is to work for disappointment.

We do not seem to realize in depth the importance of our everyday attitudes and thoughts, how they converge to build up a harmful world atmosphere. J. Krishnamurti uttered the following

words which are worth recollecting: 'When you call yourself an Indian or a Muslim, or a Christian or European or anything else, you are being violent because you are separating yourself from the rest of mankind.' Our self-centred thoughts also separate us from the earth and plants, birds and beasts, and all of life. The profound importance of universal brotherhood cannot therefore be overstated. To realize it deeply is part of skilful living, which makes of ordinary human beings Master Craftsmen, Supreme Artists who have the power to create a delightful heaven on earth.

Excellence in art calls for a long period of training whereby technical proficiency is acquired — training which involves self-discipline and the willingness to put all of one's energy, enthusiasm and attention into the task. But when progress is made, and the art reaches a high level of perfection, it does not seem like art at all. Music of the finest quality flows so naturally and flawlessly that to the listener it appears as if it is well within the reach of everybody to be equally creative; it looks so easy and right. A fine dancer may perform difficult and intricate movements with so much ease and grace that the audience is, for the time completely unaware of all the dedication and work through the years that made it possible. So is the art of life. Those who have reached a state of perfection live spontaneously and graciously, compassionately and wisely, without effort.

Genuine yoga practice is training to be

completely natural, to be established in one's own true nature. Our ordinary mental activities, however, are based on borrowed ideas and set responses, that is, on the conditioning imposed by the environment, the kind of society we live in, and what our past has imprinted on the brain. When that sort of mental activity comes to an end, we resume our original nature, which is innocent and effortlessly harmonious. But the personal mind is sly and restlessly self-preoccupied. Teaching it to die requires enormous patience and skill. As one of those who has reached this stage pointed out: No one is born to it, everyone has to work for it. It is said to be like the cultivation of a beautiful garden. He who wishes to create the beauty must love the work, give attention to all the details, and labour hard.

A Theosophist who has set his feet on the Path of Perfection must not shy away from labour. He will become an excellent artist practising the greatest of all arts, the art of living wisely and beautifully, if he is ready to sacrifice lesser things and work with a full heart and a sense of consecration at preparing himself. He must face all obstacles without compromise. His self-preparation and self-training must be untiring, and his mind watchful and alert. The skill required in this case implies no mere technical competence, but sensitivity born of feeling for all others and utter selflessness. How many of us are prepared to tread this path?

The Work around the World

Two events during the year brought together members from many different countries. One of them was the European Congress at Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal, in September, which was attended by about 80 members from 13 countries. The theme of the Congress was 'Ethics — Bridging Freedom and Responsibility'. We are told it took place in a beautiful biological park and was organized by the members of the Portuguese Section.

The other event was in faraway Singapore. This was the Indo-Pacific Conference, which is held once in three years. It attracted about 120 members from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and, of course, Singapore. The programme centred around the development of work in this large area. The members of Singapore Lodge made excellent arrangements, the International President, Miss Joy Mills and Mr Vic Hao Chin gave lectures, and Mr Pedro Oliveira, President of the Federation, guided the proceedings.

Such international gatherings, of which the Convention at Adyar is the most prominent, are invaluable because they cement the links between people with widely varied backgrounds.

As I have reported on previous occasions, the Italian Section is the largest one on the European continent with about 1,200 members. The General Secretary, Mr Antonio Girardi, visited various places in the Section and saw to

a series of weekend seminars being organized with a view to developing common plans. The Section's Publishing House is planning for effective literary output and distribution. A seminar was held in Montecatini Terme on 'Consciousness, Meditation, and Renunciation of the Fruit of Action', jointly organized by the Italian Section and the European Federation. The TOS is also very much a part of the work in Italy.

Much of the activity in France is centred in Paris and Marseille, but new contacts have been made in three provincial towns, which is encouraging. Annie Besant Lodge in Nice is going to be reactivated. Two seminars were held in Paris, one on the history of the Theosophical movement and the other on *The Voice of the Silence*. The Section's Publishing House is ensuring that basic books on Theosophy are kept in print, while some others are also periodically published, among which was *Occult Chemistry*.

The Belgian Section is a small one which is managing to survive with seven Lodges and 87 members. Their Headquarters building in Brussels needs renovation, which a tenant is not permitting. In Holland *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Divine Plan* are still being studied nationally. Their summer school had as its theme 'Through the Eye to the Heart'. There is a slight decrease in membership in both Belgium and Holland.

A report from Germany mentions that Miss Mary Anderson, who visits the Lodges in this country every year, gave two inspiring talks at their summer school on matters of deep concern to the members. The theme was 'Theosophical Perceptions — Today and Tomorrow'. German members financially support an orphanage in Brazil, and are doing other TOS work. The General Secretary, Mrs Elisabeth Schmidt, visited some groups.

A resurgence has taken place in the Portuguese Section, where outmoded rules have been replaced by new ones. Contacts with the Spanish Section, with Brazil and the international bodies have been started again. The Lodges in Lisbon and other places are doing regular study and work, beginning and ending with quiet concentration. The new journal of the Section is named *Osiris*. The General Secretary, Mr Licio Correia, informs me that the TS in Portugal has changed for the better since there is now a team working with him in a new spirit of brotherhood and cooperation. In Spain the annual summer school had about 140 participants with the Chairman of the European Federation as the chief lecturer. The Spanish Publishing House brought out several books and the Section magazine *Sophia* appeared regularly, carrying varied articles of Theosophical interest. The Lodges are not only studying Theosophy, but doing the Healing Ritual and the World Mother Ritual.

The Swiss Section is losing the right to be regarded as a Section, because it has only 53 members divided into 4

Lodges, all of them working in Geneva, except for a small group in Winterthur that meets in the home of Mrs Heidi Burch. They do not seem to have the personnel resources to support a programme to reactivate Lodges in the German-speaking area of the country, or even the Lodges in the French and Italian-speaking regions. In neighbouring Austria also, there is only a small membership meeting in three towns. As already reported, summer schools are not being held there any more. In Hungary too a small group of members are keeping alive a study group in Budapest and holding monthly public lectures. An attempt is being made to interest new people by having 'open meetings'. A collection of HPB's writings and C. W. Leadbeater's *Man, Visible and Invisible* in Hungarian were published.

In Slovenia there is considerable activity and enthusiasm. Some of the members participate in the School of the Wisdom and Convention at Adyar and in some European events. Their summer school was held in July, having as its theme 'Life is Relationship'. Miss Mary Anderson, a regular visitor, delivered four public talks. TS literature is being studied in the Lodges and their magazine 'Theosophical Thought' is regularly distributed. Miss Anderson also visited Israel, where there is a very active Lodge directly attached to Adyar. They hold members' meetings and public lectures on broadly Theosophical subjects with good participation. At a seminar in June, where both Miss Anderson and Prof. Robert Corrington lectured, more

than 100 people were present. Special meetings are held for the young. Their mailing list has about 3,000 addresses and the membership is 75. Work is reported to be going on steadily in Russia, with study groups in the Urals and Moscow. A seven-day camp was held in a mountainous place to which people came from different parts of Russia.

Passing over to the north of Europe, in Finland the members are active and enthusiastic. There are 22 Lodges, 2 Study Groups and 483 members. TS activities in Estonia are still under the aegis of Finland, but we hope that before long Estonia can manage its own affairs, no doubt with the help and cooperation of its larger neighbour. Summer schools were held both in Finland and Estonia with a good attendance. All the Lodges are working regularly, and joint meetings of their Chairmen are held periodically. Every new member receives two books as a gift. Theosophical activity in Scandinavia is more or less limited to Sweden and Iceland, since activity in Norway and Denmark is very restricted in its scope. In Sweden for many years there have been 6 Lodges and about 150 members. They have a website and continue to publish Theosophical books translated into their own language. The Swedish TOS gives aid to an orphanage in Latvia. In Norway they are hoping that Dharma Lodge in Oslo can be revived. In Bergen some meetings take place in which members nearby also participate. In Denmark there are only a few members here and there.

The TS in Iceland, on the contrary, has been very active, with a variety of programmes for both members and non-members. Public talks attract 40-50 persons for weekly meetings. Another weekly programme is an informal social gathering, followed by a talk intended to stimulate discussion, which the General Secretary reports as being immensely valuable as a stepping stone for further participation. Meditation groups are holding instruction classes, silent meditation sessions, and courses on the subject. The summer school was held in June at the International Theosophical Centre in Naarden, Holland. The Section publishes a magazine in their language as well as a newsletter.

The General Secretary of the English Section, Mr Colin Price, reports that many enquiries reach them through the Internet. Varied programmes go on at the Headquarters in London, aided by lectures by outside speakers. Residential conferences were organized at Tekels Park in Camberley on *The Mahatma Letters* and *The Hidden Wisdom in the Christian Gospels*. The North-Western and Southern Federations also held a weekend programme on 'Theosophy and the Masters of the Wisdom' at the Park. Although the Section attracted new members, the numbers decreased once again. There has been much controversial discussion over a proposal to sell the Tekels Park Estate. In Northern Ireland they had their Annual Convention at Queen's University in Belfast, near which they also hold their regular meetings.

The Regional Secretary says that a spirit of helpfulness and a growing sense of brotherhood is being felt in all their meetings.

The report from Scotland maintains that they intend to restart the Scottish magazine, for which they are allocating funds. In Wales, meetings are now being held regularly in three different towns, and they study 'core Theosophy'.

The General Secretary of the Indian Section, Mr S. Sundaram, points out an essential feature of the Theosophical Society: it does not seek to confine anyone's mind within the periphery of preconceived ideas and set opinions. Everyone is free to explore, to delve into the depths and discover for himself whatever he can of wisdom and truth. The resolution on 'Freedom of Thought' passed by the General Council is based on faith in the members, all of whom have the potential to be creative and constructive. But this freedom also casts a great responsibility on every member.

There were many public lectures and other meetings and activities at the Headquarters of the Indian Section in Varanasi. Study camps were organized in every region. The General Secretary visited Lodges in the State of Assam in North-East India, and had discussions about various aspects of the work. The National lecturers also visited many Lodges. Translation work is being done all the time to make Theosophical books in the several different languages of India available to the public. The number of members has increased slightly, by about

60, bringing the total figure to 14,256. But as in previous years, a large number of persons dropped out for not paying dues.

The financial position of the Indian Section has improved due to certain measures taken, but there is need of continuing support from the members. The buildings at the Headquarters are very old and must be renovated, and various developments of the work must take place, such as the renovation and equipment of the Section's fine library for research purposes. For all this, finding dedicated workers and financial support is essential.

Singapore Lodge has 279 members, a remarkable increase when compared to the numbers a few years ago. Basic Theosophical courses are being given regularly year after year, and like their other programmes attract people through their Theosophical content, unlike in certain other places, where they believe that new members can be attracted only by avoiding too much Theosophy!

Several Lodges in Sri Lanka have been inactive for the last few years and it became necessary to withdraw the Section's charter. I appointed Mr S. M. Jayathilake as Presidential Representative. In Indonesia, the annual convention took place with the theme 'Tolerance and World Peace', in Sala Lodge, where the national archives had been shifted to. Their magazine, *Theosofi*, was regularly published, and translations of several Theosophical books are being prepared. The Lodge in Surabaya is trying

to rekindle interest in Malang, where there used to be a Lodge some years ago.

In Japan there are changes as a result of Mr Jeff Clark's decision to leave the country. His place as President of Nippon Lodge has been taken by Mr Naotsugu Takahashi. The first National Conference in Japan was held in September and was attended by members from all the main islands, some coming even from a considerable distance. The focus of the conference was 'Theosophical History'. It is hoped that there will be closer ties hereafter between the two active Lodges — Nippon and Osaka. A new translation of *The Voice of the Silence* has been submitted to a major publisher.

There are 7 Lodges and 8 Study Groups in the Metro-Manila area of the Philippines. A new Study Group named 'Ahimsa' has been formed in Bacolod. A regional convention took place in the hills of Bohol. The TOS is very active in this Section and the International TOS magazine, *The Service Link*, is prepared there, as well as *The Theosophical Digest*. Four camps for children and youth were held during the year, and at the Headquarters there are meditation sessions.

The Presidential Representative for South-East Asia reports that Comilla Lodge in Bangladesh has become more active. The library is kept open every evening and regular study and discussions take place. The other Lodges in the country are also continuing their work but do not communicate very much, neither have reports been received from the three Lodges in Malaysia.

The reports from Latin America are encouraging. Forty young people from Argentina as well as some from Brazil and Uruguay met together in the Theosophical Centre at San Rafael for discussions on relationship, virtue, the spiritual life and so forth. Dr John Algeo, International Vice-President, spent a week there giving talks to the participants, numbering about 70. He also delivered a well-attended public lecture in the town. A variety of activities helped to bring fresh energy into this Section with 266 members. Young members have formed themselves into a strong group working harmoniously with the older ones. I also visited Argentina and conducted a seminar at the San Rafael Centre.

The Brazilian Section was happy to be visited by Mr and Mrs Pedro Oliveira, Australia; Bishop Miguel Batet and Mr Juan Viñas of Argentina; and myself. Two seminars were conducted by me during my stay there — one on *The Bhagavadgītā* and the other on *The Voice of the Silence*. All these programmes were filmed and shown on television via 30 channels in 24 cities. Several books were published and the TOS has been active in different ways. In Chile, more study days were arranged and Dr Taimni's *Self-Culture* was studied. The attendance at public events is said to be satisfactory. In Bolivia, a national seminar was directed by Mr Juan Viñas, where topics from *The Secret Doctrine* were discussed, including the nature of the human soul. Mr Viñas also lectured in two cities in Paraguay. During my visit to Bolivia in April,

another seminar was held and public lectures as well as members' meetings were well attended. All the Lodges devote at least one day in the week to studying Theosophy. A small number of members in Peru are working with great devotion to keep up activities that may attract new people into the Society, including not only lectures and other meetings, but organizing the Order of Service and excursions to the countryside for meditation and reflection. The work in Uruguay is at a low ebb. They are trying to reorganize the Lodges.

The President of the Inter-American Federation, Mrs Terezinha Kind, conducted a Retreat on *The Voice of the Silence* in Caracas, capital of Venezuela. Theosophical study goes on in the two Lodges they have. Now this country is functioning on its own without being mothered by outside workers, as Mrs Nellie Nouel, who is now visiting Adyar for the first time, has taken responsibility for the work.

I visited Cuba again, accompanied by Mrs Terezinha Kind and Mrs Enide Resende from Brazil, and gave several talks. The Lodges are working regularly. Their summer school took place in August and is reported to have had the aim of being more useful to the Masters. The centenary of the Cuban Section will be commemorated in January 2005.

An important event in Latin America was the Convention of the Caribbean Basin, which took place in the Dominican Republic in September. It is hoped that this will strengthen the TS in Dominica,

and make it an autonomous region, not dependent on Puerto Rico as heretofore. In Puerto Rico, according to the report received, lectures and studies went on throughout the year. A workshop on vegetarian cooking took place, presumably in the capital, San Juan.

The first Lodge in Costa Rica was founded in 1904. Since then there have been many ups and downs. Now there is a better spirit of cooperation than there used to be. The next Inter-American Conference will be held in Costa Rica in September 2005. Happily, we now have a few active members in the Central American countries, where the work had become almost impossible for some years, and there is hope of expansion, because there is enthusiasm.

The TS in America initiated a web-based online broadcasting system for use at their annual meeting and summer school last July. Over 399 people tuned in. Old members who could not keep in touch otherwise were able to participate in this manner in the annual events at the American Headquarters. The library of the Section is named after our President-Founder, being called the Henry S. Olcott Memorial Library. Several titles from Quest books were released in foreign languages. National lecturers travelled through the country while the Education Department developed a curriculum for e-learning. Yet the membership has fallen from 5,411 to 4,898 because of dropouts.

Canada's Regional Secretary questions how many members will continue to serve the Society during the next few years:

'Will you have passed the test of endurance and dedication, or will you have drifted off to some seemingly bluer skies . . . Let us not be talkers without action. We have a unique message.' Miss Mary Anderson, International Secretary, spent two weeks in Canada lecturing both in English and French. It is reported that the website of the association brings in new members.

In Australia, a new Lodge was chartered on the Sunshine Coast and a new booklet entitled *The Theosophical Society: What is it all about?* was widely distributed. The Annual Convention was held in Hobart, Tasmania, having as its theme 'Theosophy, Traditional Teaching or Spiritual Renaissance?' At the Headquarters of the Section, the *Union Index of Theosophical Periodicals* is constantly updated. It has entries from about a hundred periodicals and is a very useful tool. The National President and the Education Coordinator, Mrs Linda Oliveira and Mr Pedro Oliveira respectively, visited the Lodges scattered over this huge continent. Every year two or three international lecturers are invited to tour it, in addition to the lecturing work done by National Lecturers. The report from New Zealand says that the highlight of the year was the National Convention held at Orewa with Mr and Mrs Oliveira as guest speakers. Dr Richard Brooks and Mrs Diana Chapotin also lectured in the Section. Ways of using the property that they possess at Orewa more effectively are being explored, one idea being to create a small Retreat Centre

there. Two CD-ROMs have been produced from the original tapes of Geoffrey Hodson, entitled 'A Yoga of Light' and 'Reincarnation, Fact or Fallacy?'

A three-day Annual Convention of the West African Section was held in Accra, Ghana, where they are putting the finishing touches to the newly-built first floor of the Section Headquarters. Hopefully it will be completed by March 2005, if enough donations are received. The General Secretary and his Assistant regularly visit the Lodges. Once again, a School of the Wisdom session was conducted, centring round *The Voice of the Silence*.

There are Regional Associations in Togo and the Ivory Coast, where economic and political conditions are difficult, but work is being carried on. In the Ivory Coast weekly meetings are held for discussions on various subjects from the Theosophical point of view. In Togo, two Lodges are alive. They would like to receive some books and cassettes as gifts.

In South Africa, the Lodges in Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town celebrated their Centenary along with the National Convention held in April. The new General Secretary, Mrs Susan Kaschula, and her husband visited the Lodges and Centres. The TOS is very active in promoting peace initiatives in schools and communities, emphasizing the need to change from a culture of violence to one of peace and respect for life. Other activities include feeding street children and providing shelter to destitute animals.

The statistical reports received show

that in many places there is a decrease in the number of members. Apart from India, in a few countries there is only a marginal increase. It is a matter of serious concern that in some countries there are so few members that there is a tendency to shrink further. Special attention must therefore be paid to these places. In Norway, which used to be a Section not long ago, there are now only 20 members, with hardly the necessary resources to make a strong effort to expand. As reported last year, Dr John Algeo visited Norway and this was followed up this year by a visit by Mrs Diana Chapotin. But the response was disappointing.

Dr Algeo has devoted much of his time to the worldwide work. He lectured at the summer school in Argentina, as already mentioned, at the US Convention and summer school, in Canada, and elsewhere, besides writing articles for several Theosophical magazines, speaking at some universities, and lecturing at the Adyar Convention. Miss Mary Anderson lectured in Canada and spoke to members and the public in Israel, Slovenia, Italy, Germany, Austria and the Ukraine. In India she was the Chief speaker at the South Indian Theosophical Conference at Adyar and at the Annual Conferences of the Kerala and Gujarat Theosophical Federations.

My tour of Latin America in April and May involved not only lecturing, but also discussing the work in Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Mexico, ending with a stay in the Krotona Centre. In October I made a

tour of the major cities in Australia, finally participating in the Indo-Pacific Conference in Singapore. Besides this, I have spoken in several Indian cities and Federation conferences.

The Presidents of the four International Theosophical Federations have all been actively encouraging the work in their areas by lecturing, meeting members and creating links. Mrs Terezinha Kind, President of the Inter-American Federation, accompanied me throughout my travel in South and Central America, which was a great help. She was responsible for organizing a seminar for the Caribbean area, in which ten countries and 90 members participated, and gave particular attention to the weaker areas such as Paraguay, Ecuador, Panama and other Central American countries, thus making it possible to resuscitate activities in them. Sustained correspondence has also been carried on in order to keep enthusiasm alive. The Chairman of the European Federation, Miss Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu, lectured in Scotland, Slovenia, Belgium, Estonia, Finland and France. She was also at the hub of work done during the European Federation seminar in Montecatini, Italy, which had about 100 participants, and the Federation seminar held in Lisbon, Portugal, on Theosophy and Science. Apart from these events, she oversaw the organizing of the European Congress in Portugal.

Mr Pedro Oliveira lectured in several places in Sri Lanka, as a result of which new enthusiasm has been created and some organizational changes have taken

place which we hope will make this country once again Theosophically active. In Galle, where HPB and HSO took Panchaśila in 1880, the TS Lodge might start functioning again. After this visit, he conducted the annual study class at the Indian Section's Headquarters in Varanasi on *The Outline of Theosophy*, with about 100 participants, and also spoke at the Bombay Federation Conference and in Pune. Mr Tom Davis, President of the Pan-African Federation, reports that the Federation continues to become established, but at a slow pace. Newsletters 4 and 5 were distributed during the year, including news from three anglophone Sections, in West, East and Southern Africa. The East and Central African Section intends to celebrate next year the introduction of Theosophy in East Africa a hundred years ago, when the first Lodge was founded in Mombasa. Next year, Blavatsky Lodge in Accra, West Africa, will celebrate its 70th Anniversary, when they hope to have the new Headquarters building formally inaugurated. The Convention and the National Centenary celebration in South Africa took place in Pretoria during Easter, with a good attendance and the theme 'Awakening to the Light'. It was impossible to keep contact with Zimbabwe because of security risks, but correspondence has been exchanged with enquirers in Zimbabwe, Botswana and other places.

The past year saw the departure to higher worlds of Mrs Helen Gething, who was a strong pillar of the Society in England; Mrs Joan Patterson in

New Zealand, a devoted member of long standing; Mrs Edna Jenks in Australia who was a guide to many people and an exceptional worker; Mr Saturnino Tora Pala, who distinguished himself by his absolute devotion and work for the TS in Spain; Mr Ruben Thuku in East Africa, an asset to the Section for many years; and Mr Charlie Lee of Singapore, who served the Society with devotion for several decades.

Our much-loved Adyar Headquarters has suffered during the year both from deficiency of water and deficiency of workers. In the last three years the total rainfall has been so scanty that our wells and ponds dried up, or became salty. Many trees died and our harvest of coconuts, cashews and other produce was almost nil. Suitable volunteers are needed in several departments at Adyar, including the Library, TPH, the Editorial Office, the Maintenance Department and Administrative Office. Such scarcity means that the few dedicated members, who unsparingly support the work by giving their time and energy to do whatever is needed, are heavily loaded.

The Adyar Library has continued its valuable work in spite of lack of scholarly personnel and sufficient assistance to the Librarian. Some fine scholars have been added to the editorial board of the Library's journal *Brahmavidyā*. Two important books nearing completion are: *Introduction to the Chāndogya Upanishad* by Dr S. Sankaranarayanan, Director of the Library, and *A Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts on Astronomy*

and Mathematics by Dr K.V. Sharma, formerly an honorary staff member at the Library. All the usual work of accessing and cataloguing books, conservation and preservation, computerization and rendering service to scholars and students goes on steadily.

The Theosophical Publishing House has broken new ground by entering into agreements with Penguin India, for the joint publication of Annie Besant's autobiography and *The Light of Asia*. Penguin will bring out these books in paperback, while TPH retains the right to bring out hardcover editions. Participation in book fairs and advertisements in selected journals have shown encouraging results. Rights for translation into non-English languages have been granted in such a way as to increase revenue and at the same time disseminate Theosophy widely.

The School of the Wisdom has been functioning smoothly. The year 2004 began with the presentation in our Hall of two public lectures on Yoga by Prof. Ian Whicher of the University of Manitoba, Canada. This was followed by a course in Blavatsky Bungalow, the premises of the School of the Wisdom, on the 'Basics of Theosophy'. Every week the President, Mrs Radha Burnier, gave a lecture on 'The Adept and the Disciple' and Miss Mary Anderson spoke on man, God and the universe under the title 'Three Great Mysteries in the Light of Theosophy'. Mrs Dolores Gago, Secretary of the School, conducted a study on the Inaugural Speeches of the

seven International Presidents, which was a valuable 'eye-opener'. Students from England, Finland, Holland, India, Italy, Russia, Slovenia and the USA participated.

The more recent session of the School began on 15 November. Miss Joy Mills expounded some important facets of Theosophy under the title 'The Laws of the Higher Life and Our Supreme Duty'; while Dr Satish Inamdar, Director of the Krishnamurti Foundation's Valley School in Bangalore, discussed 'Understanding Life-Death'. Students came from Australia, Brazil, England, Finland, Honduras, The Philippines, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Venezuela, India and the US. This experiment in holding parallel presentations — one by a veteran Theosophist and another by a medical doctor deeply interested in the Krishnamurti teachings — was appreciated by participants.

Under the aegis of the Olcott Education Society, the Olcott Memorial School, with about 750 students, has been educating a good proportion of girls — 308 in the past year. As usual, breakfast and lunch were provided free along with uniforms, textbooks and other material. The HPB hostel's administration involved some problems, which are however being satisfactorily sorted out, with Mrs Vijaya Ravindran as the Warden. In the Social Welfare Centre more than 100 infants have been looked after during the day, when their mothers are working. The Centre also provides free medical treatment for the poor; and vocational training,

including tailoring, to women for whom an additional and independent income is a boon. At the Animal Welfare Centre, animal birth control operations are being performed and about 35 to 40 animals are treated each day. The outreach programme which takes veterinary care to surrounding villages has been appreciated by the villagers.

About 3,000 children every year benefit from being in the natural surroundings of our Scouts' and Children's Camping Centre—watching birds, learning to be orderly and training themselves happily for service.

Some staff changes have taken place during the year. Mr D.K. Govindaraj, who was the Treasurer and also Manager of the TPH for several years, left with his wife for the US. I am most grateful to him for the multifarious ways in which he supported the Adyar administration and

the valuable work he did. Major Arjun Gopalaratnam gave up his position as General Manager in August, leaving a gap yet to be filled. I thank him warmly for all the help he gave. I also thank the many members all over the world who have loyally fulfilled their responsibilities in their own situations and for the warm affection and understanding that I have been receiving from them through the years.

Unity is our strength, and that unity within the Theosophical Society is palpable in spite of whatever occasional disturbances there might be. May the Theosophical Society remain for long a true instrument to carry humanity forward on the road to Universal Brotherhood, Truth and Righteous Living.

I declare this 129th Annual Convention open.

RADHA BURNIER

THE TREASURER'S REPORT 2003 - 2004

The following figures are taken from the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2004.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED **31 MARCH 2004**

For the year ended 31 March 2004, the total assets of the Council were £1,081,892.12 and the total liabilities and net resources were £1,081,892.12. There was no change in the net assets of the Council during the year.

Category	Amount (£)
Bank balance	£1,081,892.12
Less bank charges	(£1,000.00)
Less bank interest	£1,000.00
Bank balance	£1,081,892.12

TREASURER'S REPORT 2003 - 2004

The salient features of the Income and Expenditure Account of the Society for the year ended 31st March 2004 are as under:

1. Income

The Income for the year was Rs. 12,367,308/- . The details are as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2003 Rs.	Year ended 31.03.2004 Rs.
Interest	13,461,961	14,941,716
Fees and Dues	1,598,180	2,232,084
Surplus from the Theosophical Publishing House	751,712	742,490
Surplus from <i>The Theosophist &</i> <i>Adyar Newsletter</i>	77,272	---
Surplus from Vasanta Press	102,044	35,698
General Donations	341,447	177,372
License Fees	110,000	120,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	106,865	167,058
	<u>16,549,481</u>	<u>18,416,418</u>
Less: Interest transferred to earmarked funds	<u>6,886,803</u>	<u>6,049,110</u>
	<u>9,662,678</u>	<u>12,367,308</u>

Net interest income for the year is Rs.8,892,606/- after transferring a sum of Rs.6,049,110/- to earmarked funds. Gross interest for the year ended 31.03.04 is Rs.14,941,716/- as compared to Rs.13,461,961/- in the previous year. The surplus in The Theosophical Publishing House has remained more or less the same. *The Theosophist* and *Adyar Newsletter* show a deficit of Rs.73,262/- as compared to the surplus of Rs.77,272/- in the previous year due to reduction in the subscriptions of *The Theosophist* and reduction in interest earned. Fees and Dues received during the year amounted to Rs.2,232,084/- as against Rs.1,598,180/- in the previous year.

2. Expenditure:

The net expenditure of the Society for the year is Rs.17,247,658/-, an increase of Rs.976,131/- over the previous year. The break-up is as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2003 Rs.	Year ended 31.03.2004 Rs.
Departments	6,042,970	5,570,687
Charitable work	4,503,174	5,891,264
Propagation of Theosophy	1,774,982	1,828,418
International Offices	541,892	585,084
Establishment	1,846,668	1,682,440
Other Expenses	1,561,841	1,689,765
	<u>16,271,527</u>	<u>17,247,658</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT

(a) Departments

The net expenditure of the departments for the year is Rs.5,570,687/- compared to Rs.6,042,970/- in the previous year, a reduction of Rs.472,283/-. The broad details are as follows:-

Departments	Year ended 31.03.2003	Year ended 31.03.2004
	Rs.	Rs.
Bhojanasala and		
Leadbeater Chambers	-10,167	97,128
Garden	1,077,118	609,264
Maintenance	<u>4,976,019</u>	<u>4,864,295</u>
	<u>6,042,970</u>	<u>5,570,687</u>

As compared to a marginal surplus of Rs.10,167/- in the previous year, Bhojanasala and Leadbeater Chambers show a deficit of Rs.97,128/- in the current year. In respect of boarding, both income and expenditure have increased over the previous year, however the deficit has remained more or less the same. In respect of lodging, the surplus has declined to Rs.103,778/- in the current year, as compared to Rs.224,586/- in the previous year. During the year the deficit in the Garden was reduced to 609,264/-, a reduction of Rs.467,854/- compared to previous year.

In respect of Maintenance Department the net expenditure has come down from Rs.4,976,019/- to Rs.4,864,295/-. The following were the major expenses:-

	Year ended 31.03.2003	Year ended 31.03.2004
	Rs.	Rs.
Electricity Charges	1,609,895	1,892,251
Water Supply Installations	453,143	180,141
Telephones	302,272	316,960
Electrical Installation Maintenance	263,812	350,404
Boundaries	85,578	359,603
Repairs and Maintenance of Buildings	2,708,652	1,713,481
Other Maintenance costs including Depreciation	715,013	752,223
Office Salaries and Other Expenses	<u>512,652</u>	<u>573,261</u>
	<u>6,651,017</u>	<u>6,138,324</u>
Less: Recoveries	<u>1,674,998</u>	<u>1,274,029</u>
Net Deficit	<u>4,976,019</u>	<u>4,864,295</u>

As usual, the repairs and maintenance of buildings constitute a significant part of the overall expenses of the Maintenance Department, besides other expenses such as

electricity charges, maintenance of water supply and electrical installations, boundaries and office costs.

(b) Charitable Work:

The amount spent on Charitable Work for the year was Rs.5,891,264/- an increase of Rs.1,388,090/- over the previous year. Expenses are incurred mainly on animal welfare, education, medical aid, social welfare work and other charitable work.

(c) Propagation of Theosophy

The expenditure on Propagation of Theosophy for the year was as follows:

		Year ended 31.03.2003	Year ended 31.03.2004
	Rs.	Rs.	
Adyar Library and Research Centre	(Net)	479,720	506,482
<i>The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter</i>	,,	---	73,262
Archives and Museum	,,	126,952	123,491
School of the Wisdom	(Gross)	117,866	44,898
Book Gift	,,	466,938	577,115
Convention and Seminars	,,	547,293	468,665
Others	36,213	34,505	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,774,982	1,828,418	

In the case of the Adyar Library the net deficit has increased to Rs.506,482/- compared to Rs.479,720/- in the previous year. An amount of Rs.577,115/- was utilized for Book Gifts as compared to Rs.466,938/- in the previous year.

(d) Other Costs

Total cost of Establishment and International Offices was Rs.2,267,524/-, as against Rs.2,388,560/- in the previous year.

3. Net Surplus

The overall excess of income over expenditure for the year is Rs. 416,016/- as compared to a deficit of Rs.154,079/- for the previous year. This is mainly due to variation in interest accounting procedure.

4. Capital Expenditure:

The total amount spent on Capital Account was Rs.1,219,956/- and relates to construction of the overhead water tank, additions to buildings, furniture, computers and photocopying machines.

TREASURER'S REPORT

5. Overall Position:

The overall financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. During the year the Adyar Besant Commemorative Endowment Fund rose from Rs.42,135,578/- to Rs.42,228,173/- and Other Funds from Rs.86,261,324/- to Rs.90,923,035/-.

6. Acknowledgement:

On behalf of the Society, I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the continued support of the members throughout the world.

CHENNAI

25th September, 2004

K.S.DASTUR

Honorary.Treasurer

FEES AND DUES RECEIVED

From 1st April 2003 to 31st March 2004 (in Rupees)

	Name of Section etc.	2002-2003	2003-2004
The Theosophical Society in:	Africa, East and Central	—	—
	Africa, South	—	19003
	Africa, West	—	—
	America, Central	916	—
	Argentina	—	—
	Asia, South-East	13348	14693
	Australia	85932	133030
	Austria	7333	5410
	Belgium	36645	—
	Bolivia	21503	20379
	Brazil	189303	400840
	Canada	—	39062
	Chile	—	15750
	Columbia	—	—
	Costa Rica	2159	2218
	Cuba	—	—
	Denmark	18785	—
	England	—	155525
	Finland	71886	79024
	France	37320	102315
	Germany	41316	42904
	Greece	—	—
	Hungary	—	—
	Iceland	—	45021
	India	59298	33845
	Indonesia	—	6489
	Ireland, Northern	845	1199
	Ireland, Republic of	—	—
	Italy	65574	125142
	Ivory Coast	—	—
	Mexico	14010	22490
	Netherlands	451	188768
	New Zealand	18226	17800

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Name of Section etc.	2002-2003	2003-2004
The Theosophical Society in:			
Norway		—	7455
Pakistan		—	—
Peru		16494	7435
Philippines, The		—	—
Portugal		14508	13768
Puerto Rico		55351	—
Russia		9902	—
Scotland		46520	—
Slovenia		10697	5249
Spain		40106	45337
Sri Lanka		—	1870
Sweden		23464	26103
Switzerland		21152	—
Togo		—	—
USA		582986	491869
Uruguay		9580	7793
Venezuela		—	—
Wales		1877	2286
Lodges attached to Adyar:			
Israel		22607	54367
Japan		3579	9627
Korea		—	1600
Fellows-at-large		54506	86418
		1598179	2232084.

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2004

As at 31-3-2003	LIABILITIES	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2004
Rs.			Rs.
	General Fund:		
31,079,975	Balance as per last Balance Sheet		30,925,896
-154,079	Add: Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		416,016
			31,341,912
	Add: Long term capital gains on redemption of units of mutual Fund		8,717,813
30,925,896			40,059,725
	Adyar Besant Commemorative Endowment Fund		
42,135,578			42,228,173
	Other Funds	5	90,923,035
86,261,324			
3,583,272	Current Liabilities and Provisions	6	3,523,812
162,906,070			176,734,745

Chennai
23 September 2004

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2004

As at 31-3-2003	ASSETS	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2004
Rs.			Rs.
15,501,315	Fixed Assets	1	14,909,897
138,078,945	Investments:(At cost) In Scheduled Banks, Financial Institutions, Public Sector Undertakings and Units with Unit Trust of India and Other Mutual Funds.		149,531,261
4,212,326	Current Assets, Loans and Advances:	2	3,429,110
1,726,220	Stocks	2	3,429,110
2,503,783	Sundry Debtors	2	2,162,461
883,481	Cash and Bank Balances	3	5,604,891
9,325,810	Loans and Advances	4	1,097,125
162,906,070			12,293,587
			176,734,745

Schedule Numbers 1 to 6 and Notes on Accounts form part of the Balance Sheet. This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report of even date

FRASER & ROSS
Chartered Accountants

K. S. DASTUR
Hon. Treasurer

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2004

Year ended 31-3-2003	EXPENDITURE	Year ended 31-3-2004
Rs.		Rs.
-10,167	Departments: (Net Expenditure)	
1,077,118	Bhajanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	97,128
4,976,019	Garden	609,264
	Maintenance	4,864,295
6,042,970		5,570,687
	Charitable Work:	
1,401,260	Animal Welfare	2,814,257
1,954,555	Education	2,186,076
47,290	Welfare Grants	47,600
206,484	Free Dispensary and Medical Aid	217,488
82,500	School Fees and Books	74,100
121,728	Social Welfare Work	313,814
195,739	H.P.B.Hostel	206,184
470,018	Theosophical Order of Service	3,345
23,600	Others	28,400
4,503,174		5,891,264
	Propagation of Theosophy:	
479,720	Adyar Library and Research Centre (Net)	506,482
	<i>The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter</i> "	73,262
8,001	Information and Public Relations "	3,455
126,952	Archives and Museum "	123,491
13,548	Theosophy Science Centre "	31,050
628,221		737,740
117,866	School of the Wisdom (Gross)	44,898
14,664	T.S.Workers' Training Camp "	---
466,938	Book Gift "	577,115
547,293	Convention & Seminars "	468,665
1,146,761		1,090,678
1,774,982		1,828,418
	International Offices:	
51,632	President and Vice-President	42,200
332,420	Treasurer	333,882
157,840	Secretary	209,002
541,892		585,084
	Establishment:	
169,322	Headquarters	186,872
132,779	General Manager's Office	122,085
399,838	Housekeeping	242,713
178,893	Sanitation	186,335
965,836	Security	944,435
1,846,668		1,682,440
14,709,686	c/f	15,557,893

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2004

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2004

Year ended 31-3-2003	EXPENDITURE - <i>Contd</i>	Year ended 31-3-2004
Rs.		Rs.
14,709,686	b/f	15,557,893
Other Expenses:		
10,726	Insurance	3,148
39,925	Legal and Court Expenses	25,500
89,190	Audit Fees	76,750
113,136	Rates and Taxes	335,534
3,327	Bank Charges	2,678
1,055,149	Depreciation	1,016,706
43,587	Motor Car Expenses	37,683
134,282	Miscellaneous	116,508
72,519	Provision for Gratuity	75,258
<u>1,561,841</u>		<u>1,689,765</u>
<u>16,271,527</u>		<u>17,247,658</u>
Less: Transfer from other Funds		
684,989	Adyar Estate Improvement Fund	77,346
Charitable Work:		
1,401,260	Animal Welfare	1,112,945
1,954,555	Education	2,159,273
121,728	Social Welfare Work	252,876
195,739	H.P.B. Hostel	93,421
470,018	Theosophical Order of Service	3,345
Propagation of Theosophy:		
479,720	Adyar Library and Research Centre	506,482
117,866	School of the Wisdom	44,898
14,664	T.S. Workers' Training Camp	—
466,938	Book Gift	577,115
547,293	Convention & Seminars	468,665
<u>6,454,770</u>		<u>5,296,366</u>
<u>9,816,757</u>		<u>11,951,292</u>
9,816,757	Surplus transferred to General Fund	416,016
		<u>12,367,308</u>

Chennai

23 September 2004

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2004

Notes on Accounts form part of these Accounts. This is the Income and Expenditure Account referred to in our report of even date.

FRASER & ROSS
Chartered Accountants

K. S. DASTUR
Hon. Treasurer

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, 2004

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-2006

EXPENDITURE	Rs.	INCOME	Rs.
Departments (Net Expenditure)		Propagation of Theosophy	
Bhajanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	216,000	Theosophical Publishing House	1,126,000
Garden	615,000	Interest (Net)	6,500,000
Maintenance	4,287,000	Membership Fees and Dues	2,200,000
Charitable Work		Licence Fees	120,000
Animal Welfare	1,500,000	Miscellaneous Receipts	200,000
Education	2,500,000	General Donations	200,000
Welfare Grants	100,000	Net Deficit	96,000
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	250,000		
TOS	100,000		
School Fees and Books	120,000		
Social Welfare Work	300,000		
Others	30,000		
H.P.B. Hostel	200,000		
Utilization from Other Funds	(4,600,000)		
Propagation of Theosophy			
Adyar Library and Research Centre	589,000		
<i>The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter</i>	70,000		
Vasanta Press	34,000		
School of the Wisdom	60,000		
Book Gift	500,000		
Workers' Training Camp	20,000		
Information and Public Relations	5,000		
Archives and Museum	200,000		
Theosophy Science Centre	50,000		
Utilization from Other Funds	(1,169,000)		
International Offices			
President and Vice-President	50,000		
Treasurer	380,000		
Secretary	230,000		
Establishment			
Headquarters	200,000		
General Manager's Office	150,000		
Housekeeping	300,000		
Sanitation	200,000		
Security	1,050,000		
Other Expenses			
Insurance Premiums	20,000		
Legal Expenses	40,000		
Audit Fees	90,000		
Rates and Taxes	350,000		
Motor Car Maintenance	60,000		
Miscellaneous	150,000		
Depreciation	1,100,000		
Bank Charges	5,000		
Provision for Gratuity	90,000		
	10,442,000		
	10,442,000		

HEADQUARTERS

**ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020
INDIA**

OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 2004

Executive Committee:

1. Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President</i>
2. Dr John Algeo	<i>Vice-President</i>
3. Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Secretary</i>
4. Miss Keshwar Dastur	<i>Treasurer</i>
5. Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>General Council Member</i>
6. Mr Conrad Jamieson	<i>General Council Member</i>
7. Mr Sriram Panchu	
8. Mr D. K. Govindaraj	
9. Mr Arjun Gopalaratnam	
10. Mr M. P. Singh	
11. Miss Marlene Bell	

General Manager

Adyar Library	<i>Hon. Director</i>	Major Arjun Gopalaratnam
	<i>Librarian</i>	Dr S. Sankaranarayanan
Bhajanasala		Mrs Parvati Gopalaratnam
Garden		Mrs Sudha Natarajan
Housekeeping		Mr J. Suresh
Information		Mrs Radha Muthiah
Leadbeater Chambers		Mr Conrad Jamieson
Maintenance		Mrs Uma Nilakanta
Medical Service		Mr S. Harihara Raghavan
Museum and Archives		Dr S. D. Inbaraj
Sanitation		Dr C. V. Agarwal
School of the Wisdom	<i>Directors</i>	'Mrs Vijaya Ravindran
		Mrs Radha Burnier
		Miss Mary Anderson
		Mrs Dolores Gago (Jan.-Feb.)
		Miss Joy Mills
		Dr Satish Inamdar (Nov. - Dec.)
Security		Mr J. Suresh
Theosophical Publishing House		Mr S. Ramu
Vasanta Press		Mr S. Harihara Raghavan

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Olcott Memorial School	<i>Chairman</i>	President, TS
H.P.B. Hostel	<i>Secretary</i>	Miss Sumana Kale
Social Welfare Centre	<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr T. S. Jambunathan
Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary	<i>Headmistress</i>	Mrs Lakshmi Suryanarayana
		Mrs M. Bama
		Mrs Lakshmi Narasimhan
		Dr P. D. Jagannathan

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 2004

National Societies and Sections			29	Number of Section/Area Lodges Centres Members			
Regional Associations							
(formed under Rule 35 (c))			12	26. Ireland, Northern	1	26	
Presidential Agencies			8	27. Ireland, Republic of	2	27	
Total Lodges			943	28. Italy	46	13 1,207	
Total Centres			171	29. Ivory Coast	3	30	
Total Membership 2003			32,161	30. Mexico	16	2 181	
Total Membership 2004			31,920	31. Netherlands	12	4 463	
				32. New Zealand	13	7 1,044	
				33. Norway	3	20	
Section/Area			Number of Lodges Centres Members	34. Pakistan	2	151	
1. Africa, East and Central	11	12	494	35. Peru	2	29	
2. Africa, South	4	2	264	36. Philippines	18	4 323	
3. Africa, West	13	12	268	37. Portugal	10	1 213	
4. America, Central	3		20	38. Puerto Rico	7	98	
5. Argentina	16	11	266	39. Russia	1	17	
6. Asia, South-East	8	1	134	40. Scotland	4	153	
7. Australia	12		1,255	41. Slovenia	4	71	
8. Austria	3		76	42. Spain	10	5 321	
9. Belgium	7		87	43. Sri Lanka	7	81	
10. Bolivia (and Paraguay)	10	2	89	44. Sweden	6	151	
11. Brazil	38	12	817	45. Switzerland	4	53	
12. Canada	5	4	192	46. Togo	2	40	
13. Chile	3		32	47. USA	48	60 5,120	
14. Colombia	10		69	48. Uruguay	5	5 57	
15. Costa Rica	3	1	58	49. Venezuela	2	14	
16. Cuba	12		566	50. Wales	1	43	
17. England	34	5	833				
18. Finland	26	3	483	Lodges attached to Adyar			
19. France	23	4	411	1. Covenant Lodge (Israel)	1	75	
20. Germany	7		134	2. Japan	2	57	
21. Greece	5		83	3. Korea	2	15	
22. Hungary		1	32	4. Singapore	1	279	
23. Iceland	7		345	4. Fellows-at-Large	--	92	
24. India	442		14,256		6	518	
25. Indonesia	12		205				

THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

New initiatives taken in 2003 were concluded during 2004. Agreements were signed with Penguin India for paperback editions of Dr Annie Besant's Auto-biography and *The Light of Asia*. Participation in book exhibitions and advertising continued, with encouraging results, although the slump in the market had a slight negative effect. Translation rights were granted, which will lead to revenue from royalties and the spread of Theosophy amongst non-English-speaking readers.

No new publications appeared during the year ended 30 September 2004 due to human resource constraints in the Editorial Office and the issue of *The Adyar Newsletter* was sometimes delayed. Efforts are being made to improve the situation, including staff training and exploration of the possibilities of outsourcing typesetting. It is hoped to release about thirty reprints before the end of 2004.

Mr S. Ramu
General Manager

THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

Eminent scholars have joined the Editorial Board of the Library and Research Centre as Honorary Editors. However, the Library lacks scholars deeply versed in Sanskrit literature.

During the year the following works were released:

1. *The Adyar Library Bulletin 66/2002*
2. The Thirty-two Vidyā-s
3. *Mūlamadhyamakārikāḥ* of Nāgārjuna
4. *Vaiśeṣika Catuhśūtrī*
5. *Vedānta Paribhāsā*, with English translation (reprint)

The following works are nearing completion:

1. Introduction to *Chāndogyopaniṣad* by Dr S. Sankaranarayanan
2. *Descriptive Catalogue of MSS. on*

Astronomy and Mathematics by Dr. K. V. Sarma

3. *The Adyar Library Bulletin 67/2003*

Various reprints are to be taken up, including Adyar Library Pamphlets.

During the year 395 books were purchased and 1610 accessed and 1529 books were catalogued. The President's Office donated sixty-eight books, the Secretary's Office six, TPH Adyar forty-three, TPH Wheaton sixty-four and other donors 102. Dr K. Kunjunni Raja donated nearly 1000 books. 51143 frames of photocopies were taken, including 1810 Palm Leaf frames, forty-eight books were laminated, 688 books bound and thirty-eight repaired. 7000 cards of catalogued database information were fed into the computer.

3494 registered members consulted 312 manuscripts, nineteen rare books and 3318 printed books. Twenty-two eminent scholars and 1388 other persons from

India and overseas visited the Library.

Mrs Parvati Gopalaratnam
Librarian

THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

Under the auspices of the School of the Wisdom, Dr Ian Whicher, Professor of Religion, University of Manitoba, Canada, held two lectures on classical yoga on 7 and 8 January. The lectures were open to the public and were followed by questions and answers.

The theme of the January - February session of the School, attended by students from eight countries, was 'Basics of Theosophy'. The International President and Secretary each delivered three weekly lectures, followed by questions and answers, on 'The Adept and the Disciple' and 'Three Great Mysteries in the Light of Theosophy' respectively. During the rest of the session, the Secretary of the School, Mrs Dolores Gago, commented on the inaugural speeches of the seven International Presidents, starting with a short biography and followed by the

study of selected passages with a view to understanding the keynote of each President.

Two Directors shared the November - December session of the School, each speaking on three days of the week: Miss Joy Mills (former International Vice-President and National President of the American and Australian Sections), whose subject was 'The Laws of the Higher Life and Our Supreme Duty', and Dr Satish Inamdar, a surgeon and a serious student of J. Krishnamurti's teachings, who chose the theme 'Understanding Life - Death'. It proved a good combination, which was appreciated by the students, hailing from thirteen different countries.

Mrs Dolores Gago

Secretary of the School of the Wisdom

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

The restoration, preservation and upkeep of papers and other old records needs specialized attention. A new copying machine acquired during the year is a boon, as delicate, fragile documents

no longer have to be sent to other offices for copying.

Mr Paul Zwollo organized an exhibition on the Theosophical Order of Service, which was much appreciated by

delegates attending the 2004 Convention.

The Museum attracted a few experts in the field. As usual, the students of the School of the Wisdom were shown round.

Help from people interested and

expert in the upkeep of archives is urgently needed.

Dr C. V. Agarwal

Officer-in-Charge

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Olcott Memorial High School: The School reopened on 7 June 2004 and on 10 June sixty-five new pupils joined the first class. There are now 750 children in all in the School (442 boys and 308 girls). Most of them walk from a nearby slum. They receive free of charge uniforms, textbooks, stationery and a vegetarian breakfast and lunch.

Out of seventy-two pupils, thirty-seven passed the final examination at the first attempt and twelve on resitting - a total of sixty-eight per cent.

The children took part in co-curricular activities (sports, gardening and gymnastics) and educational excursions and entered inter-school competitions. National Days and special TS celebrations were observed. There was a health check-up, minor ailments were treated and more serious cases referred to a specialist.

HPB Hostel: Fifteen old pupils returned to the Hostel in early June and were joined by ten new boys. Since two of them returned home at the request of their parents or guardians, the total number of residents is now twenty-three. The day starts with prayers and various problems are taken up. After school, from 5.30 to

6.30 p.m., games are played and then prayers sung. Mrs Sarasa Seshnarayan visits the hostel twice a week to tell stories and play games with the children. The day ends at 9.30 p.m. after supper and studies.

Social Welfare Centre: The Nursery School reopened on 7 June, when fifty new children between two and three years of age were admitted, sixty children continuing to attend. The hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., during which time the children receive a vegetarian breakfast and lunch; they are taught the English, Tamil and Hindi alphabets and learn to identify fruits, vegetables, animals, birds etc. Dr Revathy conducts a clinic and looks after their health.

Vocational Training Centre: Seventeen young women are following a tailoring course. Greeting cards and various bags and other articles made at the Centre were displayed and sold to those attending the International Convention and the School of the Wisdom.

Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary: Three veterinary surgeons, the Office Manager, a driver and five other staff members care for the animals. In-patients are fed thrice daily or as required and are

treated. Out-patients are vaccinated and treated when necessary. ABC operations are performed regularly on dogs and cats and minor operations occasionally. The first 'outreach programme', serving surrounding villages, was carried out on 9 February 2004, animals being treated

and vaccinated, which was appreciated by the villagers. Outreach programmes have been conducted regularly.

Miss Sumana Kale

Secretary, Olcott Education Society

THE BESANT SCOUT CAMPING CENTRE

Around 3000 children representing various institutions and schools used the Camping Centre for scouting and nature-related programmes. The Montessori Centre, Junior Red Cross and other organizations also benefited. Bird-

watching programmes helped the children to appreciate the beauties of Nature.

Mr A. Victor Frank

For the Besant Scouting Centre

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

The TOS is represented in about half of the countries where the Theosophical Society is active. The creation of the role of correspondent, preceding the appointment of a national director, has helped the TOS to spread to new countries, especially in Latin America, where Fernando Perez Martin and Terezinha Franca Kind are actively supporting the work and the TOS is present in nine countries. In this area activity is concentrated on social welfare. As in other parts of the world, the healing ritual is performed in many places.

In Australia the TOS is active in a number of cities, raising funds for local charities as well as for the Olcott School

and HPB Hostel at Adyar and the TOS in Kenya, the Philippines and Pakistan. Programmes for peace are also being developed. TOS work has started in New Zealand and much has already been accomplished, including support for the TOS overseas - and the maintenance of the TS Lodge garden!

In East and Central Africa much charitable work is undertaken for the needy, providing tons of foodstuffs, sponsoring education, contributing to medical expenses, participating in AIDS prevention work.

The TOS in England, under new direction following the passing of Helen Gething, mostly supports TS and TOS

work overseas. Cardiff Lodge in Wales puts its lecture room at the disposal of members running a Bowen Technique free clinic for cerebral palsied children; following visits by therapists from other parts of the UK, similar free clinics have been set up elsewhere. The TOS in France is now sponsoring the education of 130 children in India, as well as supporting various aid organizations. Considerable funds are raised at the popular annual bazaar in Paris. TOS work is expanding in Italy, the education of 113 underprivileged children being sponsored, the aged and sick helped and the vegetarian ethic promoted. Thirteen groups meditate regularly on peace. A successful TOS gathering was held in Spain on the theme of healing. A generous contribution was made to the TS Children's Home in Brazil and supplies of books and various essentials were sent to the TOS in Cuba. The Swedish TOS provides support to a boarding school and teenage community home and a street children's centre in Latvia.

In India TOS work is organized in eighteen regions. Over one hundred groups are active in the fields of health, education, animal welfare and the

environment, also providing mobility aids etc. There are many homoeopathic dispensaries attached to TS Lodges. TOS work in Pakistan has been undermined in recent years, due to the uncertainty of overseas donors and the fall in interest rates. The education of many poor children can no longer be sponsored and the Literacy Programmes have also suffered. The Montessori School is however prospering. Forty-three families and elderly people are supported. A TOS chapter is now doing good work in Bangladesh, helping flood victims.

Work in the Philippines is carried out in eight areas, including health, nutrition and education (a pre-school learning centre and a School being run).

The TOS in the United States continues work in seven departments and provides information for members on issues of current concern. All TOS members receive a complimentary copy of *The Service Link*. The TOS has been reactivated in Canada and is making good progress, also producing a bi-annual newsletter.

Mrs Diana Dunningham Chapotin
International Secretary, TOS

REPORTS OF WORK

IN

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR FEDERATIONS

(Where necessary, reports have been translated, edited or condensed)

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

The report received from Zambia was very brief, perhaps due to the fact that a most dependable member and other devoted workers had died there, but Mufulira Lodge is still very active and efforts are being made to revitalize sleeping Lodges. Commendable work is being done in Uganda also. No news was received from Tanzania.

The TS is however particularly active in Kenya, in preparation for the Centenary

of the coming of Theosophy to the region and the foundation of Mombasa Lodge in 1905. The International President will attend the celebrations during the Convention in Nairobi at Easter (from 25 to 27 March), the theme of the gathering being 'Truth is Timeless'.

Mr Jayu L. Sampat
General Secretary

AFRICA, SOUTHERN

At the National Convention, with the key-note 'Awakening to the Light', the Centenaries of Pretoria, Durban and Capetown Lodges were celebrated. The undersigned was elected General Secretary, succeeding Mr Tom Davis.

Activities in the various Lodges and Centres included public lectures, introductory classes in Theosophy, classes on 'The Aims and Purposes of Theosophy', a *Voice of the Silence* study group and the study of books such as *The Seven Principles of Man* and *The Universal Way of Life* by Annie Besant.

The new General Secretary visited Durban Lodge and two of the Centres and also spent two weeks at the Headquarters of the New Zealand Section.

TOS activities included a seminar, lasting one week, on 'The Soul in Education', promoting peace initiatives in schools, feeding street children, clothing abandoned babies and providing a shelter for stray animals.

Mrs Susan Kaschula
General Secretary

AFRICA, WEST

Lodges and Centres held regular meetings, weekly, fortnightly or monthly, and studied for example *The Masters and the Path* and *The Science of Yoga*. The Annual Convention in June 2004 at Accra, with the keynote 'Theosophy, the Future Religion of Humanity', attracted members from six TS Lodges in Ghana. Subjects such as consciousness, karma, reincarnation etc. were covered. The West African School of the Wisdom featured 'The Path of Hastened Evolutionary Process' as presented in *The Voice of the Silence*. The subject of a weekend seminar at Kpando Secondary School was 'Spiritual Life in our complex changing World', based on *At the Feet of the Master* (Qualifications), *Light on the Path* (Rules on the Road) and *The Voice of the*

Silence (The Stern Path). These meetings motivated and inspired the members who attended.

The Lodges in Liberia and English-speaking Cameroon did not respond due to political upheaval in those countries. (The Section has Lodges and members in Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia and Cameroon.)

As a result of rising costs, there was little advertising, but *The Theosophist* was widely distributed and books sold well. Work continues on the headquarters building in Accra, members making voluntary contributions. The office in Accra is open daily.

Mr Paul B. Kwakyi
General Secretary

ARGENTINA

The International President, accompanied by the President of the Inter-American Federation, visited and spoke in Buenos Aires, Rosario and San Rafael (where 120 persons attended her lecture). She also held seminars for members and for the public in the San Rafael Centre. Other activities in the Centre included a meeting of the Young Theosophists, a summer school with Dr John Algeo and a programme on the *Brihadāranyaka-Upanishad*. These events attracted forty to seventy participants, including

members from Argentina itself and from Brazil, Bolivia and Chile.

National Meetings were held in Carlos Paz, Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Tucuman and San Lorenzo on such subjects as 'The Inner Connotations of the First Object', 'The Path of Action', 'TS Work' and 'The Illusion of self'. Lodge studies included *The Bhagavadgita*, *Light on the Path*, *At the Feet of the Master*, *The Voice of the Silence*, *The Chakras*, *Human Regeneration*, *Self-Culture* and other books by Dr Taimni. Public lectures were

held on, for example, 'Meditation', 'The Cause of Suffering' and 'Karma in Daily Life'. Workshop activities rather than lectures are proving popular with the public. Activities for children have started.

The Young Theosophists collaborate in all the Section's activities.

The publishing house continues to sell

theosophical books in Spanish, also to other American countries. The Section produces a magazine and also has a website. An E-group has started.

Mrs Silvia Liliana Pastore
General Secretary

AUSTRALIA

The Lodges were active according to their local possibilities. In larger towns and where members live centrally, it was possible to organize many well attended activities, including seminars, forums, study classes, etc., in addition to regular members' and public meetings. In the case of smaller Lodges or where members have to travel some distance, meetings were less frequent but well attended. Stronger lodges help weaker lodges and local groups with resources and speakers. A new Lodge was inaugurated Sunshine Coast Lodge.

Subjects of study in the Lodges and groups included comparative religion, Theosophy and Spiritualism, Man and his Bodies, Meeting Death as a Friend, the Kabbala, the Teachings of Krishnamurti and Ramana Maharshi, various theosophical texts and books such as *The Mysteries of Existence*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Science of Yoga* and *Isis Unveiled*.

Dr Richard Brooks from the USA undertook a very successful tour of the Section and gave morning classes at the

Springbrook School of Theosophy.

John Vorstermans was the guest speaker at the Convention, held in Hobart, the keynote being 'Theosophy: Traditional Teachings or Spiritual Renaissance?'. The National President, the Education Coordinator and the supporting lecturers also travelled widely. A total of sixty-six talks or seminars were provided for TS centres. As many resources as possible are devoted to theosophical educational work.

The Theosophy-Science Group produced three newsletters during the year and organized a session at the Annual Convention. Local science groups meet in Sydney and Adelaide. The TOS is active and supportive of many charitable activities by Theosophists abroad. The Section Library is particularly well equipped. Most of the Lodges also possess libraries. The Section's website has been extended. About 4000 persons have recently visited the website monthly.

Mrs Linda Oliveira
National President

BELGIUM

Three of the Lodges are in Brussels and four in other towns (two of them working in French and two in Flemish). Public lectures were held weekly in Brussels as well as an introduction to Theosophy (twice monthly, over a period of three years). There were also regular public lectures or courses in the four Lodges in the provinces. One of the provincial Lodges holds meetings twice a week.

Lodge studies included fundamentals of Theosophy and courses in astrology. Krishnamurti videos were

shown in one of the Lodges. Books such as Dr Taimni's *Self-Culture* and *The Science of Yoga*, *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Mahatma Letters* and Wallace Slater's *Raja Yoga* were studied in the different Lodges.

Membership has dropped and there is difficulty in finding lecturers. It may be necessary to move the headquarters in Brussels to new premises.

Dr Henriette van der Hecht
General Secretary

BRAZIL

National Meetings in Brasilia and elsewhere included the summer school with the theme 'The Tradition of the Ancient Wisdom', seminars on the *Bhagavadgītā* and *The Voice of the Silence* by the International President, an International School on ancient and modern mysteries in Christianity, a winter seminar on reincarnation and life after death and a national meeting of Young Theosophists, studying 'Spirituality and Freedom'.

Speakers at the weekly public lectures in Brasilia included the International President, the General Secretary, Mr and Mrs Pedro and Linda Oliveira and several local members. Courses and seminars were held on 'The Tenets of Theosophy', Krishnamurti's teachings, 'Cycles of Life and Death' etc. Mr Juan Viñas also held

seminars. There was a retreat on 'Buddhist Meditation'.

All lectures and seminars at the Brasilia Headquarters were filmed and presented on thirty TV channels in twenty-four cities throughout the country.

All Regions (in addition to the Brasilia area) were active, organizing lectures, courses, seminars and study meetings on, for example, 'The Basic Laws of Evolution', *At the Feet of the Master*, *The Secret Doctrine*, and *Man, God and the Universe*. A new TS building was inaugurated in Rio de Janeiro.

The quarterly journal *Sophia*, printed in 10,000 copies, is sent to all members, Lodges and Study Centres and widely circulated. It always contains a translation of the Watch-Tower Notes from *The*

Theosophist. A new project of study programmes for members has been started in Brasilia, Rio and Sao Paulo and is already functioning in some other cities.

The TOS is active in healing, world

peace, social service and ecology.

Mr Ricardo Lindemann
General Secretary

COLOMBIA

(No Report)

CUBA

The most important and inspiring event was the visit of the International President, accompanied by Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind. The President gave a number of lectures, both for members and for the public, and held a workshop on *The Voice of the Silence*.

Activities included weekly Lodge meetings, an introductory course on Theosophy, a course on *The Secret Doctrine* and public lectures on, for example, 'The Meaning and Scope of the Objects of the TS' and 'Philosophical Schools of India'.

Man, God and the Universe, The Science of Yoga, The Masters and the Path and At the Feet of the Master, among

other works, were studied at Lodge meetings. Due to difficulties in transportation, the Lodges will in future meet fortnightly instead of weekly.

The theme of the Annual Convention was 'A Path towards Self-Realization'. A summer school was held, lasting three days. The Mahachohan's Letter, love and wisdom figured among the subjects studied.

The Library is much in use. The TOS has been reorganized.

The Cuban Section will celebrate its centenary in January 2005.

Miss Lelia Fernandez Pagola
General Secretary

ENGLAND

There was much activity at the Section Headquarters in London. Sunday lectures drew an average attendance of thirty-six

and Sunday afternoon seminars attracted about sixteen persons. Regular seminars were devoted to *The Secret Doctrine*. A

Secret Doctrine study course was also held, as well as a course on 'Theosophy: the Way of Self-Discovery', introducing the main concepts of Theosophy. Other courses dealt with subjects such as the Tarot, dreams and an investigation of the convergence of science and religion: 'The Quantum Leap'.

The theme of the Summer School, attended by more than 90 participants, was 'Theosophy, the Hidden Wisdom'. Federation and other Conferences were held, some of them at Tekels Park, on, for example, *The Mahatma Letters*, 'The

Hidden Wisdom in the Christian Gospels', 'Theosophy and the Masters of the Wisdom', 'The Quest for the Holy Grail' and 'Lightening the Darkness'.

The sale of audio cassettes of lectures increased by 50%. Requests for the syllabus and leaflets were received from more than 540 persons. The Library, which is being computerized, is used more by researchers for short-term projects than by general users.

Mr Colin Price
General Secretary

FINLAND

Lodge work was based mainly on the study of theosophical literature such as *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Mahatma Letters*, *The Masters and the Path*, *The Chakras* and *The Ageless Wisdom of Life* (Clara Codd). Members were encouraged to do their own research and to contribute lectures.

Public lectures were held regularly in various towns. Audiences at the regular public lectures in Helsinki are increasing. In Estonia public lectures were organized in at least three towns.

A new study group was formed in Rovaniemi, in the North of Finland, and held regular public lectures.

As usual various activities were organized at the Kreivila centre, including the Summer School, attended by about

eighty participants, the guest speaker being the Chairman of the European Federation. The theme was 'Human Regeneration' and those present received Mrs Radha Burnier's book bearing that title. About seventy participants attended a four-day summer school in Estonia. A short summer school was also held in the north of Finland.

Lodge Presidents and/or representatives attended a meeting in Helsinki on subjects of mutual interest.

The Section magazine celebrated its centenary. A special reduction in the price for one year's subscription resulted in an increase in subscribers. Members received two newsletters in the course of the year, including articles for individual study. A copy of *The Key to*

Theosophy was presented to new members. There are theosophical libraries in eleven towns in Finland. The library in Helsinki contains about 4000 books

in different languages.

Mr Kalevi Dunder
General Secretary

FRANCE

There are regular activities in the Headquarters in Paris and the premises in Marseille, including weekly courses, lectures and Lodge and group meetings. Four Lodges in other cities also had regular activities. Lodge studies were based on, for example, *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *Principles of Theosophical Work* (Dr. Taimni), *The Mahatma Letters* and *Thought-Forms*. Contacts in three places in the provinces may result in the formation of small groups or even Lodges.

Dr H. van der Hecht, Belgian General Secretary, was the guest of honour at the Annual Convention. Two seminars were held in Paris: on 'The History of the Theosophical Movement' and on *The Voice of the Silence*, attended also by members from the provinces.

The magazine *Le Lotus Bleu* appears ten times annually. Publications and

reprints included *La Vie d'Annie Besant* by S. Glachant and *La Chimie OcculTE* by Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater, the new edition including all the diagrammes of the latest edition by TPH Adyar. *Connais-toi toi-même* by Danielle Audoin has at last been published in French. The Library is open on two afternoons a week and the Bookshop is a permanent centre where enquirers are welcomed and receive information.

The TOS annual fair included a programme of Indian dances in homage to Rukmini Devi. The 'ENTR'AIDE théosophique' continues to support the elderly and those in difficulty and the CEEC helps to publish theosophical books in Eastern European countries.

Mrs Nano Leguay
General Secretary

GERMANY

The lodges met weekly or fortnightly for discussion or lectures. Study material included *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Bhagavadgita* and

Viveka Chudamani. One Lodge studied Annie Besant's works and the inner meaning of Christian teachings. Emphasis was given to Krishnamurti's teachings

in all the Lodges.

The summer school in Lippstadt was attended by about thirty-five members and friends, the theme being 'Theosophical Perspectives - today and tomorrow'. Mary Anderson and Diana Dunningham-Chapotin were the guest speakers. Dr Taimni's teachings figured at the spring and autumn gatherings held in the north of Germany, which drew an attendance of approximately twenty.

GREECE

Themes from all religions and traditions were studied in the Lodges, special emphasis being given to the esoteric meaning of scriptures. A deeper insight was sought into theosophical teachings, and their importance in everyday life, including brotherly relations among members, was stressed.

White Lotus Day, Adyar Day and Foundation Day are now celebrated annually.

Greek translations of *Practical Occultism* and *The Voice of the Silence*

Subscriptions to the magazine *Theosophie - Adyar*, which is published three times yearly, have increased slightly.

TOS work took the form of financial support for an orphanage in Brazil and hospital visits to patients who have no family.

Mrs Elisabeth Schmidt
General Secretary

by H. P. Blavatsky and *To whose who mourn* by C. W. Leadbeater were published.

The magazine *Ilos* appears regularly and included this year a special issue devoted to the Olympic Games.

The Section website, which offers basic information on the Society, its Objects and history, received about 35,000 visits within six months.

Mr George Sivris
General Secretary

ICELAND

Lodges are active in Reykjavik and outside the area.

Weekly public programmes by members and non-members in the form of lectures, symposia, discussions etc. attracted an audience of forty or fifty

persons. Refreshments were served after the programme. Meditation classes were also organized.

Informal gatherings of members and the public took place every Saturday afternoon. A short programme to stimulate

discussion was included.

About twenty-five persons attended a thirteen-week introductory course on meditation and spiritual practices.

The summer school of the Section was held at the International Theosophical Centre in Naarden, Holland, with the theme 'The Timeless Wisdom', the guest

speaker being Ali Ritsema. Twenty-nine members attended.

The magazine *Gangleri* is published twice and the members' newsletter *Mundifari* three times yearly.

Mr Gisli V. Jonsson
General Secretary

INDIA

Following the illness of Mr P. S. Panchakshari, Mr R. R. Dalal was appointed Officiating Treasurer in September 2004.

The International President presided over a meeting at the Section Headquarters in Varanasi on 1 October, in which many eminent personalities took part, and attended the global convention on Peace and Non-violence in Delhi early in the year. She further presided over the Karnataka Federation Conference, conducted a study camp in Pune and a seminar in Mumbai and inaugurated the M.P. and Rajasthan Federation Conference. She visited in addition Indore and Ujjain. The International Secretary was chief guest at the Karnataka and Kerala Federation Conferences.

There was no North Indian Study Camp this year. The South Indian Theosophical Conference in April 2004 was directed by the International Secretary, the subject being 'Glimpses into *The Mahatma Letters*'. Over 100 members attended. The subject of the Bowali summer study camp, with Professor R. C. Tampi and Mr Murarilal Gupta as

Directors, was Dr Taimni's *Man, God and the Universe*, thirty members from various Federations attending.

The General Secretary was the chief guest at the centenary celebration of Ananda Lodge, Allahabad, and visited Theosophical Lodges in different parts of Assam. The National Lecturers held workshops and seminars, gave lectures and/or presided over meetings in numerous Federations and in some cases discussed property matters and Federation business with local officials.

The Kashi Tattva Sabha, Varanasi, organized twenty public lectures and other events during the year. The financial position of the Section has improved but more funds are required in order to hold more study camps and renovate Headquarters buildings.

The Indian Section Website imparts a course on Theosophy. Books are also sold online. The bookshop has performed well. Several basic books have been translated into Hindi.

Mr S. Sundaram
General Secretary

INDONESIA

The Annual Convention was held at Sala Lodge in May, fifty members and friends participating. The theme was 'Tolerance and World Peace'. Five speakers representing the five official religions in Indonesia contributed talks. A discussion panel dealt with the subject 'Facing Civilization'.

Penerangan Lodge in Surabaya organized lectures in another Lodge and study recreation at a mountain resort, with five talks on 'Consciousness'. In addition, the Lodge held a meeting in Malang, in an attempt to rekindle interest in Theosophy in the area. About twenty people attended. Similar events are planned for every second month.

Books studied in the Lodges included *Basic Theosophy* (G. Hodson), *First Principles of Theosophy* (C. Jinarajadasa),

The Science of Yoga (Dr I. K. Taimni), *The Mental Body* (Powell) and *Essentials of Theosophy* (pamphlet by Dr Algeo). Subjects such as science, yoga and health were also studied.

The Section archives have been moved to Sala Lodge, as there are no Lodge premises in Jakarta.

The following books are being translated: *Esoteric Christianity* (Annie Besant), *The Astral Body* and *The Mental Body* (Powell). The section magazine, *Theosofi*, appeared every four months. Adiwerna Lodge also publishes a journal and in addition brought out a series of special publications on 'Ancient Wisdom: Doctrines of Religions and Theosophy'

Prof. Dr Soepangat Soemarto
General Secretary

ITALY

The General Secretary visited many of the Lodges and Centres, where he held lectures. A series of weekend seminars enabled Lodges to exchange ideas and hold dialogues.

The National Convention at Loreto was well attended, the theme being 'Spirituality, Compassion and Tolerance'. The 13th Seminar in collaboration with the European Federation was held at Montecatini Terme, the subject being 'Consciousness, Meditation, Renouncing

the Fruit of Action'. The speakers included, in addition to the Chairman of the EFTS and the Italian General Secretary, seven Italian members and Mrs Irena Kristan from Slovenia. Lectures at the annual three-day Seminar at Jesolo Lido were based on *The Voice of the Silence*, *At the Feet of the Master* and *Light on the Path*.

A booklet with useful initial information on Theosophy and the Society was published. The Italian

version of *The Secret Doctrine*, which was reprinted, and a one-volume study version created much interest. The monthly magazine, of which 1300 copies are printed, is popular.

The Section website, which now contains a 'communication space', was visited by about 2000 persons each month. HPB's biography created great interest. All the volumes in the

theosophical libraries in different cities are now available on the web.

The Theosophical Order of Service gives support to the Olcott School and to the printing of theosophical literature for Eastern countries.

Mr Antonio Girardi
General Secretary

MEXICO

The International President visited Mexico and held two workshops, a lecture for members and two public lectures. The Section was represented at the eighth Caribbean Seminar by Lissette Arroyo.

An Autumn School was held on 'Cataclysms, Races and Continents'. Two seminars on theosophical teachings were organized at the Section headquarters, as well as two cycles of between ten and twenty lectures on the subject of karma.

Lodge studies were based on, for example, *The Key to Theosophy*,

Theosophy Explained (Pavri), *Space, Time and Self* (N. Pearson), *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Voice of the Silence*, *Light on the Path* and *The Mahatma Letters*.

Necessary repairs have been carried out at the Headquarters building. Various problems in connection with other buildings belonging to the Section are being dealt with.

Dr Hugo Gerardo Figueroa Salinas
Mosqueda
General Secretary

NETHERLANDS

The Board of the Section met regularly. There was also a meeting of Lodge Board members:

The theme of the summer school was 'Through the Eye to the Heart — a search through *The Secret Doctrine*'. National study groups continued their study of

The Secret Doctrine and *The Divine Plan*. In June the Section participated in a 'Spiritual Fair' in Amsterdam.

Study in the Lodges was based on, for example, *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Voice of the Silence*, *Human Regeneration* (Radha Burnier),

Teachings on Discipleship (S. S. Varma) and Shirley Nicholson's *Ancient Wisdom - Modern Insight*, as well as subjects such as comparative religion and life and death. Unfortunately, only about two-thirds of the members — for the most part elderly persons — belong to Lodges.

The Headquarters building is about to be restructured.

Joy Mills' *Entering the Sacred Way* and Geoffrey Farthing's *Aspects of Divine*

Law were published in Dutch. The Section magazine *Theosofia* appears every two months. The Section Library has 21,000 books and is linked with Lodge Libraries and the Library at the International Theosophical Centre in Naarden.

There are plans to help the group in Curaçao to become more active.

Mrs Wies Kuiper
General Secretary

NEW ZEALAND

The highlights of the year were the Orewa Convention with Linda and Pedro Oliveira, Australia, who each gave a public lecture and presented a workshop on 'The Golden Stairs', and the School of Theosophy with Richard Brooks, as well as a lecture tour by Diana Dunningham-Chapoton. An education and outreach workshop was held and a paper on publicity was produced.

Subjects of lectures by national speakers included 'Death and the Afterlife', 'The Real and the Unreal', 'Hindu Philosophy', 'The Hidden Powers of the Mind', 'The Symbolic Meaning of the TS Emblem', 'The Essential Unity of all Religions', Sufism, Karma, Dharma,

Comparative Religions, *The Secret Doctrine* etc.

A management team meets monthly and is a valuable component of the administration. The post of education coordinator has been created. The coordinator has produced a Branch handbook to help Presidents and committees and also compiled study material.

Two audio CDROMs were produced from original tapes by Geoffrey Hodson. A new database was installed in the reference library and the archives.

John Vorstermans
General Secretary

THE PHILIPPINES

In addition to weekly meetings of several Lodges, a Self-Transformation follow-up group, a Krishnamurti Study

Group, a Meditation Group and a Bible Study Group met at the Headquarters in Metro Manila. These meetings were well

attended. At the Krishnamurti Study Group videos were shown, followed by discussion. The TS also assisted in moderating the Krishnamurti Study Group at the University of the Philippines. The Biblical Study Group took up scholarly as well as esoteric and mystical facets of the Bible.

Seminars were held in Mindanao on various subjects of a psychological nature.

In other parts of the country, youth and children's camps were organized.

The Section is very active in social and TOS work, running various schools, in particular the 'Golden Link School', which has expanded.

Mr Vicente Haó Chin, Jr

General Secretary

PORUGAL

The European Congress was held in Porto in September, the keynote being 'Ethics: Bridging Freedom and Responsibility'. 100 participants from fourteen countries attended. A Theosophical Seminar was held in May, in cooperation with the EFTS, on 'Theosophy and Science'.

Contacts with the Spanish Section have been renewed, which may lead to a revival of the Iberian Days, and it is planned to strengthen contacts with all other Sections, in particular Brazil.

Lodge studies were based on, for example, *The Bhagavadgita*, *At the Feet of the Master*, *The Voice of the Silence*, *Light on the Path* and *The Secret*

Doctrine. Programmes were also arranged at the headquarters, including lectures on, for example, 'Praising Life and Death' and 'Theosophy for the Twenty-First Century' (by Mrs Dolores Gago).

The Section Board met monthly, dealing with the reorganization of the Section and plans for spreading Theosophy. Renovation work was carried out in the headquarters and other buildings belonging to the Section.

A new bulletin, *Osiris*, is being published and a website will be launched.

Dr Licio Correia
General Secretary

PUERTO RICO

The Mahatma Letters were studied at monthly meetings. An autumn school was devoted to *The Secret Doctrine*, which

is also the subject of a study group. A youth study group and a pilot course for those teaching Theosophy also

functioned. Further courses were held on astrology, vegetarian cooking and Ayurvedic nutrition.

An introductory course was held regularly for new members. Public lectures featured many theosophical topics (religions, philosophy, science etc.).

SPAIN

Books studied in the Lodges included Patanjali's *Yoga Sutras*, *The Mahatma Letters*, *Human Regeneration*, *Theosophy Explained*, *Talks on the Path of Occultism* and *At the Feet of the Master*. Lectures and study sessions were organized. Almost all the Lodges perform the Healing Ritual. One of the Lodges held family meetings and a monthly Round Table ceremony.

About 140 participants attended the Summer School in San Feliu. The theme was 'The Laws of the Higher Life', Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu being the guest speaker. 'Theosophical Days' in Cáceres attracted sixty participants. The subject of study was *Through the Gates of Gold* (Mabel Collins), the lecturer being Isabel Nobre Santos (Portugal).

There were also lectures on Orientalism and Shamanism.

The Theosophical Library is being prepared for use.

Mrs Enriqueta Portela Del Castillo
General Secretary

The HPB Institute organized a three-day seminar on 'Learning to die well' and, with Terrassa Lodge, a seminar on 'Creating Inner Silence', which drew an average attendance of thirty during five to six sessions.

The General Secretary visited four of the Lodges.

The Publishing House issued Spanish translations of *A Study in Consciousness*, *The Science of Emotions* and several leaflets in Castilian and in Catalan, in addition to the section magazine *Sophia*.

Mr Jose Tarragó
General Secretary

SRI LANKA

(No Report)

SWEDEN

Six Lodges were active, holding lectures and study groups on, for example, the psychology of Theosophy, ways to enlightenment, Buddhism, *The Secret Doctrine* and Patanjali's *Yoga-Sutras*, and engaging in meditation and dialogue.

The theme of the Summer School was 'To Dare', with lectures in the mornings and study groups on the *Yoga-Sutras* in the afternoons. About fifteen participants attended winter and summer gatherings, lasting two days, and engaged in quiet and profound dialogue.

No other Path to Go (Radha Burnier) and *Self-Culture* (Dr Taimni) are being translated and a new Swedish edition of *The Secret Doctrine* is in preparation.

The bookshop in Stockholm was open twice weekly. Two members kept the website up to date.

The TOS continued to help an orphanage and a youth group in Latvia.

Mrs Ing-Britt Wiklund
General Secretary

SWITZERLAND

Activities are centred in Geneva, where the four Lodges and four Centres meet in the Headquarters building. The Lodges study theosophical literature and Krishnamurti's thought and the Centres meditate or discuss the latest scientific discoveries in the light of spirituality. Informal talks are organized once or twice a month, open to the public, and prove very successful. Attractive programmes

are sent to about 320 persons.

The quarterly magazine 'La Voie(x) Théosophique' is proving very successful.

In the German-speaking area small groups are meeting only in Winterthur and Villeret.

Mrs Anne-Angèle Bornet
General Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lodges studied, for example, *The Key to Theosophy*, *Light on the Path*, *The Mahatma Letters*, *The Voice of the Silence* and *The Science of Yoga*. Lectures, classes and workshops were held on a variety

of subjects, including 'Theosophical Foundations', 'Theosophy and World Religions', 'The Transformative Power of Inspirational Poetry' and 'Gnosticism: Ancient Tradition of Inner Knowing'.

National lecturers gave forty-two presentations to local groups, federations and camps. A comprehensive curriculum for an e-learning project includes an Introductory Study and courses based on *The Key to Theosophy* and *At the Feet of the Master*.

Membership fell during the year, partly because mass mailing to entice new members to join has been discontinued, since such new members tend to resign. Including 429 members of the electronically operated National Lodge, only 1942 members belong to one of the 103 Lodges and study centres.

Staff members and a management team at the Headquarters, Olcott, put much effort into revisioning and restructuring the Section, developing an e-learning

programme, refocusing the Theosophical Publishing House etc. The Library has been renovated and the Publishing House building will be completely restructured, which will take some years.

New publications by TPH included *The Seven Human Powers* (Shirley Nicholson), *Beyond the Postmodern Mind* (Huston Smith), *The Heart of the Qur'an* (Lex Hixon) and *The Letters of HPB*, Volume 1 (edited by John Algeo). *The Quest Magazine* appeared every two months. 4800 pamphlets were distributed. The Library added almost 800 new titles to its collection. The website receives an average of 13,000 visits daily.

Mrs Betty Bland
National President

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AMERICA, CENTRAL

The theosophical work in our countries, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, considering how few members there are, is carried out with great enthusiasm. We spread Theosophy through studies, group meetings and talks with the active participation of members and sympathizers. The subjects studied included Basic Theosophy, Yama-Niyama, Man, the Solar System, individualization, the causal body and the ego and the internal

and external work of the TS and books such as *Self-Culture* and *Tao-te Ching*.

We very much appreciate the magazines which we receive and which help us to renew our knowledge as well as our way of sharing it with those who visit us.

Mrs Aura Elena Pozas de Martinez
Organizing Secretary

AUSTRIA

Studies in the three Lodges (in Vienna, Graz and Linz) were based on subjects such as the esoteric path and occultism and various books, for example, *At the Feet of the Master*, *The Mahatma Letters*, Dr Taimni's *Self-Culture* and Swami Vivekananda's *Jnana-Yoga*.

Talks were given in all three lodges, either for the public or for members.

It has no longer been possible to hold 'Study and Meeting Days' - a mini-summer school - due to lack of interest and because no-one is available to undertake the organization of such events.

Mr Franz Durkowitsch
Regional Secretary

CANADA

Study in most of the Lodges was based on *The Key to Theosophy*; one Lodge studied in particular small books, such as *At the Feet of the Master*.

The Annual Convention was held in Calgary, with Martin Leiderman as guest speaker.

The International Secretary spent two

weeks in Eastern Canada, lecturing above all in the French-speaking Lodges. The International Vice-President visited Blavatsky Lodge in Vancouver.

The magazine *The Light Bearer*, which contains a section in French, appeared

regularly. The website attracts more than 20,000 monthly visits.

Mr George Duguay
Organizing Secretary

CHILE

Works studied in the Lodges included *The Secret Doctrine* and *Talks on the Path of Occultism* as well as articles by, for example, Sri Ram, Radha Burnier, Dr Taimni, C. Jinarajadasa and Vivekananda. Subjects of public lectures were, for example, 'The Common Root of all Religions', 'Dangers of Spiritual Development', 'Slavery and Liberty in our Emotions', 'Discovering our Mind', 'The Art of Living' etc.

Members' study days were well attended, as were public lectures, workshops and informal meetings, due above all to publicity through posters in the Santiago subway. A study group functioned during the summer period with

good attendances. Some members participated in theosophical gatherings in Argentina.

The headquarters building was completely refurbished, members themselves undertaking part of the work. The Library was extended due to gifts and some acquisitions. A computer with a higher capacity was purchased, making Power Point lessons available.

The TOS was active in supplying food and clothing for those in need, the protection of animals and the environment. The Healing Ritual was performed.

Miss Ana Gloria Bustos
Organizing Secretary

IRELAND, NORTHERN

At the Annual Convention in June, the undersigned was elected Regional Secretary, succeeding John Doherty.

Regular Sunday meetings were held throughout the year, talks being given by members on topics such as 'Concentration', 'The Unseen Influences in our

Lives', 'Catastrophies', 'Is true Happiness possible on a Daily Basis?'. There were also question and discussion meetings based on themes such as 'The Prison we have created for ourselves', 'The Impact of Theosophy in our Lives' and extracts from *The Mahatma Letters*.

There is a spirit of helpfulness and a growing sense of brotherhood at meetings.

The sale of the former premises has been completed and meetings are held conveniently close to the University.

Good use is made of the theosophical library, which also operates a postal service.

Mrs Marie Harkness
Regional Secretary

IVORY COAST

It was another difficult year, due to the military and political crises in the country, but the Theosophical Society kept the flame of Theosophy burning, holding meetings lasting three hours every Sunday morning, during which the causes of war and the conditions for peace were the main topics of lectures, courses and discussions, enabling members to understand their present position in the light of Theosophy.

The main trouble is the lack of finance. It is extremely difficult for members to pay their fees and the Society manages with the strict minimum. Visits from abroad would be welcome and would encourage members greatly.

Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh
Organizing Secretary

NORWAY

Mrs Diana Dunningham-Chapoton held a much appreciated seminar in Bergen Lodge. Her papers were shared with those unable to attend. Two members from Vesta Lodge were also present and shared their impressions with their group. It is hoped that activity can be revived in Dharma Lodge.

The printing of a translation of *Human Regeneration* has been delayed for technical reasons.

It is hoped to make the library available again next year.

Mrs Agnes Gaasemyr
Organising Secretary

SCOTLAND

The Chairman of the European Federation visited Scotland and lectured

in the Lodges in Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh. Five members from Scotland

attended the European Congress in Portugal.

A Travel Fund has been instituted, in addition to the Visitors' Fund and Lodge Development Fund.

It has been decided to relaunch a magazine.

Mr Martin Lowe
Organizing Secretary

SLOVENIA

Adyar Lodge in Ljubljana held weekly and fortnightly meetings for members and candidates respectively, as well as monthly Saturday meetings to study writings by A. Besant, Sri Ram, HPB, Krishnamurti, Radha Burnier, Dr Taimni (*Self-Culture*) etc. The other Lodges also studied basic theosophical texts and/or themes.

The subject of the summer school, attended by about 43 members and candidates, was 'Life is Relationship'. The International Secretary lectured at the Summer School and thereafter gave seminars on *The Mahatma Letters* in two lodges and public talks in four towns.

At a seminar in November the Chairman of the European Federation spoke on 'HPB's Meditation Diagram'. At the February seminar, School of the Wisdom lectures by Dr John Algeo on *At the Feet of the Master* were summarized.

The magazine *Teozofska Misel* appears quarterly. The magazine and books in Slovene are sent to some bookshops and libraries.

Mrs Irena Kristan
Former Organizing Secretary
Dr Dusan Zagar
Organizing Secretary

TOGO

Dr Annie Besant's books *Reincarnation* and *Karma* and extracts from books by Krishnamurti were studied in the Lodges and various subjects were discussed, including free will, occultism, duty, spirituality etc.

The social and economic crisis is worsening, but some members plan to send a donation to Adyar.

Mr M. Dam Tsowu
Organizing Secretary

URUGUAY

The principal study of two of the Lodges has always been *The Secret Doctrine*. Another Lodge studied a book by Ouspensky and the Cabbala.

A basic course on Theosophy was initiated, with audio-visual support. A workshop was held on 'A Voyage towards self-discovery' and there are weekly Hatha Yoga classes. Unfortunately, the radio programme had to be stopped, due to financial difficulties.

The Library, which has been

augmented by gifts of valuable books, is very active, having many readers, who also sometimes engage in study together. Many inquiries are received through the webpage.

What is most encouraging is that there is a very good relationship among the members.

Mrs Ema de Souza Leal

Organizing Secretary

WALES

Cardiff Lodge has remained lively, with a new theosophical study programme. Question and answer sessions, public talks, meditation, healing sessions and 'Sanskrit Mantra' groups are all attracting some newcomers. A computer will enable us to print information sheets for enquirers and study material. An adjoining area has been paved, so that it

will be possible to hold some summer meetings outside.

A study group has been started in Bangor, North Wales. Meetings are also held regularly in three towns in the area, study being based on *The Secret Doctrine*.

Ms Julie Cunningham
Acting Organizing Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

ASIA, SOUTH-EAST

In Bangladesh, Comilla Lodge is over a century old and has seen many ups and downs. The Lodge building was taken over in the Liberation War of 1971 but was recovered and renovated and work began anew in 1998. The Lodge is picking up and now has 42 active members. Study and discussion meetings are held once a week. TOS work has started. Olcott Study Centre in Dhaka meets monthly and seems

promising. The other three Lodges hardly respond.

The three Lodges in Malaysia seem to be working regularly, although no formal reports have been received.

(Singapore Lodge is now attached directly to Adyar.)

Dr C. V. Agarwal
Presidential Representative

BOLIVIA (AND PARAGUAY)

Highlights of the year under report included a seminar and lectures by the International President and by Brother Juan Viñas, who also lectured in Paraguay.

A cycle of public lectures was held during June and July and in August there was a national meeting devoted to the study of *The Voice of the Silence*.

The lodges held study meetings at least once a week on, for example, *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Key to Theosophy*, *The*

Manatma Letters and works by Dr. Taimni and Annie Besant. There were special activities for young people, including classes on music and yoga and the analyzing of videos, attended also by older members.

With the help of Dr John Algeo, the Rules have been revised.

Mrs Teresa W. de Nuñez
Presidential Representative

COSTA RICA

The Centenary of Theosophy in Costa Rica was celebrated. Virya Lodge,

founded in 1904, has however suffered a crisis but was successfully supported by

the Presidential Representative and other members. An introductory course on Theosophy was well attended by non-members. Some members of other Lodges transferred to Virya Lodge and two new members joined.

All three lodges met once a week for a lecture or for study. Lecture titles included 'Theosophical Ethics' and 'Relations between Theosophy, the TS and Buddhism'. *Human Regeneration* and *The Secret Doctrine* were studied. The Lodges collaborate in many activities,

such as basic courses, the study of *The Mahatma Letters*, meditations for peace in country areas, national parks and sites of archaeological interest.

The International President visited Costa Rica and drew an audience of approximately seventy at her three public lectures. About twenty members attended her workshop on *The Bhagavad Gita*. Mrs Nelda Samarel from Ojai paid two visits to Costa Rica.

Ms Maria Orlich
Presidential Representative

HUNGARY

One study group was active in Budapest, taking up themes such as karma, reincarnation, death and after. There is a nucleus of ten to twelve really active members in or near the capital. About a third of the members live further afield and can participate only occasionally.

Public lectures (on, for example, Theosophy in daily life and cosmogony) were held monthly, attended by audiences of about twenty-five to fifty. A few days after these lectures there were 'open

meetings' for those interested to bring up their questions. Seven further public lectures were held, partly outside Budapest, for other specific interested groups. A study group was also active for non-members, two of whom have helped with translation work.

A collection of some of HPB's writings in one volume and Leadbeater's *Man Visible and Invisible* were published.

Mr Thomas Martinovich
Presidential Representative

IRELAND, REPUBLIC OF

(No Report)

PAKISTAN

In Karachi four public lectures were held at the Avari Towers — on 'Spirituality in Daily Living', 'Human Rights — An Assessment' and 'Clairvoyant Remote Viewing', the fourth lecture being in Urdu.

Classes for the in-depth study of Theosophy took place weekly, based on various books. A course of four talks was given on astrology and related hermetic sciences.

The Society's remembrance days

and other celebrations usually included, in addition to an appropriate address, devotional music.

The Library and Reading Room were open daily. The journal *The Karachi Theosophist* appeared bi-monthly.

No report was received on the work in the Lodge in Hyderabad.

Mr Dara F. Mirza
Presidential Representative

PERU

Seventeen public talks were held in all, on subjects including 'Life after death', 'As above, so below' and 'Esoteric Christianity'. A course open to the public on 'Principles of Theosophical Philosophy' attracted six participants and seven members attended a course on public speaking.

The International President, accompanied by the President of the Inter-American Federation, visited Peru and spoke to members on *The Voice of the Silence* and 'TS Work - Inner and Outer' and to the public on 'Thought, Mind and Meditation'.

Lodge study was based on *The Key to*

Theosophy, The Science of Emotions (Bhagavan Das) and *In His Name* (C. Jinarajadasa). One Lodge spent two weekends studying in the countryside.

The magazine was not published due to lack of finances. The Theosophical Order of Service was active in helping the poor. Working with other humanitarian institutions, the TOS alone collected 700 signatures against bullfights. A campaign against juice made from live frogs has not so far been successful.

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar
Presidential Representative

RUSSIA

The work in Russia goes on steadily. The study groups in the Urals and in

Moscow met twice a month and studied 'Man, his nature and forces'.

A seven-day study camp was conducted in the mountains by the undersigned with participants from different parts of Russia.

A seminar planned by the Chairman of the European Federation had to be postponed.

We are grateful for the theosophical magazines received from abroad.

Mrs Nina Veligon
Presidential Representative

VENEZUELA

The two Lodges in Venezuela each held weekly meetings, studying *The Mahatma Letters*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *Human Regeneration*, *Principles of Theosophical Work* and Dr Besant's *A Study in Consciousness and Discipleship*.

Public talks on different aspects of Theosophy and the Society were held on the Society's celebration days.

About twenty members and sympathizers attended a retreat by Mrs Terezinha

Kind on *The Voice of the Silence*.

The Library was open on Saturdays and Sundays. Conservation and restoration work was done on old books. The bookshop functioned to a reduced extent, since the import of new books is restricted.

Mrs Nelly Nouell
Coordinator for Venezuela

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

COVENANT LODGE (ISRAEL)

Members' meetings were held once a week in the morning and fortnightly in the evening. Subjects of study included 'Krishnamurti as a Challenge', 'Metaphysics and Ethics', 'Self-Knowledge', *The Key to Theosophy* etc.

Three public meetings were organized monthly, one being in a public hall and attracting about sixty-five participants with such themes as 'Life after Death', 'Inner Peace' and 'Meditation — Action in non-Action'.

Seven courses, a Kabbala-Theosophy course and special meetings for the young

were also organized.

The International Secretary spent a week in Tel Aviv, giving five talks and participating in an Interreligious Brotherhood Convention, along with Professor Robert Carrington and others.

The magazine *Or* continued publication and an Internet 'Or-Net' magazine now appears monthly. The Lodge mailing list includes about 3000 sympathizers.

Mr Abraham Oron
President

NIPPON AND OSAKA LODGES (JAPAN)

Mr Jeff Clark, who was for many years the President of Nippon Lodge in Tokyo, as well as Coordinator of the work in Japan, is returning to the United States and Mr Naotsugu Takahashi has been elected in his place.

The first national conference was held in September by both Lodges, and was attended by members from all the main islands of Japan. One focus of the conference was theosophical history and the future. The two Lodges look forward to a deepening of their ties.

The basic programme of Nippon Lodge, which has a core of devoted members, is to present first-generation Theosophy in a convivial setting. The mail magazine and home page continue to attract new members and the future is viewed with optimism.

Mr Jeff Clark
Former President of Nippon Lodge
Mr Naotsugu Takahashi
President of Nippon Lodge

KOREA

(No Report)

SINGAPORE

Talks and lectures in the Lodge treated such subjects as 'Snapshots of Theosophical History', 'An Introduction to the Study of the Upanishads', 'Esoteric Christianity', 'The Doctrine of Cycles', 'Modern Insights into Reincarnation', 'Why Vegetarianism?' and many others. The Basic Theosophy Course, lasting about six weeks, is the principal means to attract new members.

A study class on *Light on the Path*, open to members only and lasting for about five months, provided much opportunity for fruitful discussion. An average of thirty students attended regularly. This study succeeded previous courses on *At the Feet of the Master* and

The Voice of the Silence. The three volumes of *Talks on the Path of Occultism* were used during the courses.

The Lodge website features information on the Theosophical Society, the Singapore Lodge and the Basic Theosophy Course as well as the catalogue of the library and of books for sale.

Towards the end of the year under report, the Lodge was preparing for the triennial Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation Conference, to be held in Singapore in November 2004.

Mr Chong Sanne

President

INTER-AMERICAN THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

FEDERATIONS

EUROPEAN FEDERATION

The Chairman conducted programmes in Scotland, Slovenia, Belgium and France (Paris). Her subjects included 'HPB's Meditation Diagram', 'Buddhism', 'Glimpses into the History of the Theosophical Movement', 'The Objects of the TS' and *The Voice of the Silence*. She took part in seminars organized by the Federation in Italy (Montecatini) and Portugal.

She also participated in summer schools in Spain, Finland and Estonia as well as the European Congress in

Portugal. The latter Section is recovering from a difficult period. Over eighty members and others from thirteen countries attended the Congress, the theme of which was 'Ethics - Bridging Freedom and Responsibility'.

The triennial elections were held during the Congress, the present Chairman being re-elected for a further three-year period.

Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu
Chairman

INDO-PACIFIC FEDERATION

Newsletters were distributed in December 2003 and July 2004. All Sections and Lodges in the area received the complete programme of the Triennial Federation Conference in Singapore in November 2004, as well as relevant general information.

Educational material produced by the Australian Section was sent to Sri Lanka,

Indonesia and Japan. Communication was re-established with Bangladesh and Myanmar. The Federation President planned visits to Sri Lanka and India preceding the Conference in Singapore.

Mr Pedro Oliveira
President

INTER-AMERICAN THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

The Seventh Caribbean Seminar was held in the Dominican Republic, more

than ninety persons from ten countries participating.

The International President toured Latin America in April/May 2004, accompanied by the undersigned. She visited Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Mexico.

The Vice-President and the Secretary of the IATF visited Puerto Rico, where the Secretary gave a course on *The Secret Doctrine*, attended by about twenty persons.

The IATF Newsletter, in Spanish and in English, which is published twice yearly, is widely distributed.

Thanks to e-mail, the member countries

of the Federation are closely linked with each other and with the Headquarters of the Federation in Brasilia. They receive some material every month from the President of the Federation, who also sends theosophical material every week to small TS groups in Paraguay, Ecuador, Venezuela, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind
President

PAN-AFRICAN THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

Progress is gradually being made in the establishment of the Federation. Two Newsletters were issued with news from the three English-speaking Sections and some articles in French.

The East and Central African Section (comprising Lodges in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) is preparing to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the first Lodge in the area (in Mombasa).

The West African Section, with Lodges in Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia and Cameroon, will celebrate the 70th anniversary of Blavatsky Lodge in Accra in 2005.

The South African Section held Centenary celebrations in Pretoria, which were well attended, with visitors also from Zambia. A special PATF meeting was held on this occasion to discuss the way forward.

The situation in Zimbabwe has further deteriorated, no members remaining there, although information has been sent to enquirers, encouraging them to start study centres, but response has been poor.

Mr Tom Davis
Chairman

DIRECTORY AND MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

Date	Section	General Secretary	Address	Magazine	Email address
1947	Africa, East and Central	... Mr J. L. Sampat	... Box 20428, Kitwe, Zambia	... <i>The Theosophical Light</i>	ronaksampat@hotmail.com
1909	Africa, South	... Mrs Susan Kaschula	... No.3, 'Cragwood', 10, 5th St., Parkhurst 2193, Johannesburg, Gauteng	... <i>The South African Theosophist</i>	susan@kaschula.co.za
1956	Africa, West	... Mr P. B. Kwakyi	... PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana	... <i>The West African Theosophist</i>	tswestafrica@yahoo.com
1929	America, Central *	... Mr Francisco Mayorga Obando	... Super La Colonia Linda Vista 1C Este, y 1/2C Sur, Managua, Nicaragua		bemapo03@hotmail.com fcormayorga@hotmail.com
1920	Argentina	... Mrs Silvia Liliana Pastore	... Casilla de Correo 166, 5600 San Rafael, Provincia de Mendoza	... <i>Teosofía en Argentina</i>	stargentina@sociedad-teosofica.com.ar theossoc@satyam.net.in
1990	Asia, Southeast †	... Dr C. V. Agarwal	... The Theosophical Society, Kamachha, Varanasi 221 010, India		
1895	Australia	... Mrs Linda Oliveira	... 4th Fl., 484 Kent St., Sydney, NSW 2000	... <i>Theosophy in Australia</i>	tshq@austheos.org.au
1912	Austria *	... Mr Franz Durkowitsch	... Altmühlweg 5/6, A-4810, Gmunden	... <i>Adyar</i>	
1911	Belgium	... Dr H. van der Hecht	... 166 Rue de la Cambre, 1200 Brussels	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	
1965	Bolivia †	... Mrs Teresa W. de Nuñez	... Casilla de Correo 3911, Cochabamba		viajero@supernet.com.bo
1920	Brazil	... Mr Ricardo Lindemann	... Sociedade Teosófica no Brazil, SGAS Quadra 603, N. 20, CEP 70200-630 Brasília (DF)	... <i>Theosophia</i>	teosofia@stb.org.br
1924	Canada *	... Mr George H. Duguay	... 10 Laurelcrest Street, Unit 902 Brampton, Ont., Canada L6S 5Y3	... <i>The Light Bearer</i>	president@theosophical.ca
1920	Chile *	... Miss Ana Gloria Bustos	... Casilla 3603, Santiago 21	... <i>Revista Teosófica Chilena</i>	sociedadteosofica@entelchile.net
1937	Colombia	... Dr Antonio Martinez	... Cra. 6, No. 56-40, Bogotá-2	... <i>Selección Teosófica</i>	teosoficacolombiana@hotmail.com
1997	Costa Rica †	... Ms Maria Orlich	... Apartado 8-6710-1000, San José		orlichsm@yahoo.com
1905	Cuba	... Miss Lelia Fernandez Pagola	... Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600	... <i>Revista Teosófica Cubana</i>	teocuba@yahoo.com
1987	Dominican Rep. †	... Mrs Magaly Polanco	... Urb Venus Gardens, Cupido 704, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00926, USA		polanc@prtc.net
1888	England	... Mr Colin Price	... 50 Gloucester Place, London W1U 8EA	... <i>Insight</i>	info@theosophical-society.org.uk
1907	Finland	... Mr Kalevi Dunder	... Teosofinen Seura, Vironkatu 7 C 2, Fin 00170, Helsinki	... <i>Teosofi</i>	teosofinen.seura@jippii.fi
1899	France	... Mrs Nano (Jeannine) Leguay	... 4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	editionsadyar@wanadoo.fr
1902	Germany	... Mrs Elisabeth Schmidt	... Friedrich-Wilhelm-Str. 54, D-12103, Berlin	... <i>Theosophie Adyar</i>	
1928	Greece	... Mr G. P. Sivris	... 25 Voukourestiou St., 106 71-Athens	... <i>Ilos</i>	info@theosophicalsociety.gr
1907	Hungary †	... Mr Thomas Martinovich	... Hunyadi Janos u 17. II. 8, H-1011 Budapest	... <i>Teozófia</i>	tshutau7@hu.inter.net
1921	Iceland	... Mr Gisli V. Jonsson	... PO Box 1257 Ingolfsstræti 22, 121 Reykjavik	... <i>Gangleri</i>	ts@gudspekifelagid.is
1891	India	... Mr S. Sundaram	... The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010	... <i>The Indian Theosophist</i>	theosophy_vns@yahoo.com
1912	Indonesia	... Dr Soepangat Sumarto	... Jalan Anggrek Nelimurni A-104, Jakarta 11410, Timur	... <i>Theosophi</i>	icak@dnet.net.id
1949	Ireland N. *	... Mrs Marie Harkness	... 97 Mountsandel Road, Coleraine - Co. Londonderry BT52 1TA	... <i>Insight</i>	
1919	Ireland, Rep. of †	... Mr Derry McGrath	... 3 St. Joseph Place, Joseph St., Limerick City		dmcgrath1@eircom.net

1954	Israel ▲	... Mr Abraham Oron	... 31 Zahal Street, 56265 Yahud, Israel	... <i>Or</i>	mail@theosophia.co.il
1902	Italy	... Mr Antonio Girardi	... Via Quintino Sella, 32, C.P. 640, 36100 Vicenza	... <i>Rivista Italiana di Teosofia</i>	sti@teosofica.org
1997	Ivory Coast *	... Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh	... Yopougon, 23 Rue Princesse B. P. 3924, Abidjan 23	... <i>Sophia</i>	pm_kouahoh@hotmail.com
1971	Japan ▲	... Mr Naotsugu Takahashi	... 4-12-11 Nakamachi, Nishi Tokyo Yoshi, Tokyo 202 0013		
1919	Mexico	... Dr Hugo Gerardo Figueiroa Salinas Mosqueda	... Ignacio Mariscal, 126, Col. Tabacalera C.P. 06470 Mexico 1, D.F.		zetamex@psi.net.mx
1897	Netherlands, The	... Mrs Wies Kuiper	... Tolstraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam	... <i>Theosofia</i>	info@theosofie.nl
1896	New Zealand	... Mr John Vorstermans	... 18, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 3	... <i>Theosophy in New Zealand</i>	hq@theosophy.org.nz
1913	Norway *	... Mrs Agnes Gaasemyr	... Stadion Vei 9, N - 5162 Laksevaag	... <i>Teosofen</i>	agngaae@online.no
1948	Pakistan †	... Mr Dara Mirza	... Jamshed Memorial Hall, M. A. Jinna Road, Karachi	... <i>The Karachi Theosophist</i>	azral@cyber.net.pk
1924	Peru †	... Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar	... Jr. Republica de Portugal 152, Breña, Lima 5	... <i>Búsqueda</i>	teosoficaperu@hotmail.com
1933	Philippines, The	... Mr Vicente Haó Chin, Jr.	... Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City	... <i>The Philippine Theosophist</i>	tspeace@info.com.ph
1921	Portugal	... Dr Licio Correia	... Sociedade Teosofica de Portugal Rua Passos Manoel no. 20 cave 1150 - 260 Lisboa	... <i>Osiris</i>	shakti@sapo.pt
1925	Puerto Rico †	... Mr Jaime Baquero	... GPO Box 36-1766, San Juan, 00936-1766	... <i>Heraldo Teosófico</i>	unionteo@prtc.net
1994	Russia †	... Mrs Nina Veligon	... Pereulok Soviet House 4, Flat 56, 455036 Magnitogorsk		veligon_ts@hotbox.ru
1910	Scotland *	... Mr Martin Lowe	... 28 Great King Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6QH		martinlowe@free.fr
1889	Singapore ▲	... Mr Chong Sanne	... 540 Sims Avenue, No 03-04 Sims Avenue Centre, Singapore 387603	... <i>Newsletter</i>	info@singaporelodge.org
1992	Slovenia *	... Dr Dušan Žagar	... Kunaverjeva 1 SLO-1000 Ljubljana	... <i>Teozofska Misel</i>	zagardusan@yahoo.com
1921	Spain	... Mr Jose Tarragó	... Calle Pomaret, 114, 08017 - Barcelona	... <i>Sophia</i>	J.TARRAGO@terra.es
1926	Sri Lanka †	... Mr S. M. Jayathilake	... 20/13, Race Course Road, Badulla (BD) 90000	... <i>The Sri Lanka Theosophist</i>	
1895	Sweden	... Mr Pertti Spets	... Henriksdalsringen 23, SE - 131 32 Nacka	... <i>Tidlös Visdom</i>	teosamf@teosofiskasamfundet.a.se
1910	Switzerland	... Mrs Anne Bornet	... c/o Mme Eliane Gaillard 17 Chemin de la Côte, CH -1282 Dardagny	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	egaillard@bluewin.ch
1997	Togo *	... Mr M. Dam Tsowu	... BP 215, Atakpame		
1886	USA	... Mrs Betty Bland	... PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60189-0270	... <i>The Quest</i>	olcott@theosmail.net
1925	Uruguay *	... Mrs Ema de Souza Leal	... Javier Barrios Amorín 1085, Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo		samadhi@internet.com.uy
1922	Wales *	... Ms Julie Cunningham (Acting)	... Tan y fron, Red Wharf Bay, Pentraeth Angelsey, Gwynedd LL75 8HJ UK	... <i>Insight</i>	julie.cunningham@tesco.net

Date refers to the date of formation

* Regional Association

† Presidential Agency

▲ Lodge attached to Adyar

The Council of the European Federation of National Societies: *Chairman*: Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, 45000 Orleans, France. Email: kimdieu_ts@magic.fr

Inter-American Theosophical Federation: *President*: Mrs Terezinha Kind, SHIS QI 28 Conjunto 7 casa 18 - Lago Sul, Brasilia DFF - 71.670-270, Brazil. Email: kindjala@ig.com.br

Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation: *President*: Mr Pedro Oliveira, 4th Fl., 484 Kent St., Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia. Email: indopres@austheos.org.au

Pan-African Theosophical Federation: *President*: Mr Tom Davis, 22 Buffels Road, Rietondale 0084, Pretoria, South Africa. Email: thosgDavis@icon.co.za

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, F-45000 Orléans, France (for 2005, 2006 and 2007)

Mr Paul Zwollo, International Theosophical Centre, Valkeveenselaan 19, NL - 1411 GT Naarden, The Netherlands (for 2004, 2005 and 2006)

Miss Joy Mills, 22 Krotona Hill, Ojai, CA 93023, USA (for 2005, 2006 and 2007)

Mr Surendra Narayan, B - 91 Greater Kailash I, New Delhi 100 048, India (for 2005, 2006 and 2007)

Mr Curt Berg, Mirabellbacken 11, SE - 165 61 Hässelby, Sweden (for 2005, 2006 and 2007)

Mr Gabriel Burgos Suarez, Transversal 19, No.61-32 Bogotá 2, Colombia (South America) (for 2003, 2004 and 2005)

Mr. Conrad Jamieson, Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India (for 2003, 2004 and 2005)

Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind, SHIS QI 28 Conjunto 7, Casa 18 - Lago Sul, Brasilia DFF - 71.670-270, Brazil (for 2005, 2006 and 2007)

MINUTES

of the Meeting of the General Council of the Theosophical Society
held on Saturday, 25 December 2004, at Adyar

P R E S E N T

Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President (in the chair) and proxy for Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Columbia and Cuba</i>
Dr John Algeo	<i>Vice-President and proxy for Mexico, the Philippines and Sweden</i>
Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Secretary and proxy for Germany, Greece, Switzerland and Mr Gabriel Burgos</i>
Miss Keshwar Dastur	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr Colin Price	<i>General Secretary, England</i>
Mr Kalevi Dunder	<i>General Secretary, Finland</i>
Mr S. Sundaram	<i>General Secretary, India</i>
Mrs Wies Kuiper	<i>General Secretary, the Netherlands</i>
Mr John Vorstermans	<i>General Secretary, New Zealand</i>
Mrs Betty Bland	<i>General Secretary, U.S.A.</i>
Miss Joy Mills	<i>Additional Member and proxy for Argentina and Indonesia</i>
Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>Additional Member</i>
Mr Paul Zwollo	<i>Additional Member</i>
Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu	<i>Additional Member and proxy for France, Italy, Spain and Mr Curt Berg</i>
Mr Conrad Jamieson	<i>Additional Member and proxy for West Africa</i>

Present by invitation as Observers:

Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind *Additional Member elect*

Dr. C. V. Agarwal
Mr S. M. Jayathilaka
Mr Ernesto Garcia
Mrs Maria Rosa Garcia

*Presidential Representative for South-East Asia
Presidential Representative for Sri Lanka
Vice-General Secretary of the TS in Argentina
Mr Ernesto Garcia's translator*

The President warmly welcomed those present.

The list of proxies was read out as recorded above.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held at Adyar on 25 December 2003 had been circulated. They were confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

These were dealt with under Item 12 (Work around the World).

3. Confirmation of Voting

(a) Re-election of Vice-President for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007

The President had nominated Dr John Algeo for re-election as Vice-President under Rule 11(a) of the Rules and Regulations for a three-year term from 1.1.2005.

The result of the voting was as follows:

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Total</i>
34	1	-	35

Dr John Algeo was declared re-elected Vice-President for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

(b) Re-election of Miss Joy Mills, Mr Surendra Narayan, Mr Curt Berg and Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu as Additional Members for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007

The President had nominated Miss Joy Mills, Mr Surendra Narayan, Mr Curt Berg and Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu under Rule 2(b) of the Rules and Regulations for re-election as Additional Members of the General Council.

The results of the voting were:

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Total</i>
Miss Joy Mills	32	2	1	35
Mr Surendra Narayan	34	-	1	35
Mr Curt Berg	34	-	1	35
Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu	33	1	1	35

Miss Joy Mills, Mr Surendra Narayan, Mr Curt Berg and Miss Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu were declared re-elected Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

(c) Election of Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind as Additional Member for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007

The President had nominated Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind under Rule 2(b) of the Rules and Regulations for election as Additional Member of the General Council.

The result of the voting was as follows:

For	Against	Abstained	Total
35	-	-	35

Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind was declared elected Additional Member of the General Council for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

4. Report of the Non-English Publications Fund Committee

The Secretary reported that a grant of Euro 948.45 had been paid to the TS in Norway for the publication of a Norwegian translation of *Human Regeneration* by Mrs Radha Burnier. An application for a grant towards a Chinese translation of *At the Feet of the Master* had been received from the Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation and a formal application was awaited from the TS in Indonesia for the publication of translations of several books.

Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind was appointed in place of Mr Alfredo Puig as a member of the NEPF Committee, which is now constituted as follows:

The President
 The Vice-President
 Miss Joy Mills
 Miss Mary Anderson
 Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind

5. Report of the International Finance Committee

The Secretary presented the report of the International Finance Committee for the year ended 30 September 2004.

6. Report by the President

As was agreed a year ago, in lieu of salient points from the Minutes of the Executive Committee, the President submitted a report on matters of importance concerning the Headquarters at Adyar for the year ended 30 September 2004.

7. Appointment of the Executive Committee for 2005

The following were appointed members of the Executive Committee for 2005:

Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President</i>	}	ex officio
Dr John Algeo	<i>Vice-President</i>		
Miss Keshwar Dastur	<i>Treasurer</i>		
Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Secretary</i>		
Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>General Council Member</i>		
Mr Conrad Jamieson	<i>General Council Member</i>		
Mr Sriram Panchu			
Dr C. V. Agarwal			
Miss Marlene Bell			

8. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004, which had previously been circulated, were considered and adopted. The overall financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory.

9. Budget for the year ending 31 March 2006

The budget for the year ending 31 March 2006, which had been previously circulated, was considered and adopted.

10. Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2006

Messers Fraser and Ross, Chartered Accountants, were appointed auditors of the Theosophical Society for the year ending 31 March 2006.

11. The Theosophical Seal

The English General Secretary stated that even now, many years after the Second World War, the swastika arouses suspicions in people's minds in England. It was however pointed out that the serpent arouses similar suspicions in some people's minds in Africa (being thought of as a symbol of Satan) and the two interlaced triangles, known as the 'Star of David', might also do so in Islamic countries.

It was however agreed that absolute uniformity is not necessary and that graphic adaptations (for example curves replacing right angles in the swastika) could be made where and when it becomes really necessary. Further, the TS in different countries is free to use the seal or not.

12. Work around the world

(a) *Australia:* A new Lodge (Sunshine Coast Lodge) is functioning in the area of the Gold Coast Lodge, whose Charter was cancelled.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

- (b) *Greece*: The President intends to visit Greece in early July.
- (c) *Norway*: Not much progress has been made in Norway, perhaps due to insufficient follow-up after the Vice-President's visit in 2003.
- (d) *Sri Lanka*: Because most of the Lodges in Sri Lanka had been defunct for several years, the President had withdrawn the Section's Charter and appointed Mr S. M. Jayathilaka Presidential Representative. The latter was already planning and organizing activities, including programmes in schools.
- (e) *Switzerland*: The Swiss Section has only 53 members and four Lodges, all of the latter in Geneva. It has therefore for some time no longer qualified to be a Section. Moreover, it is intended that the Section be run by a committee, without a General Secretary. But it was pointed out that one person must take responsibility. Therefore, there cannot be a representative from Switzerland on the General Council until a change for the better takes place.
- (f) *Republic of Ireland*: In 1963, Mrs Evelyne Hornidge bequeathed a valuable Georgian house in Dublin to 'The Theosophical Society in Ireland', to be administered by three Trustees of the TS in Ireland. Recently, two of the three Trustees have excluded from their decisions the third Trustee, who is the Presidential Representative, and are acting as if the Dublin Lodge were 'the TS in Ireland', ignoring the members of Limerick Lodge and the Study Centre in Cork. Supported by a lawyer who is a tenant in the house, they claim to have passed new Rules which make no mention of the international Theosophical Society. A letter from the President is being sent to all members, including those of the Dublin Lodge, pointing out the importance and the privilege of belonging to the international Society.

11. Any Other Business

- (a) *Centenary of Colonel Olcott's Passing*: The Vice-President outlined the plans of the TS in America to celebrate this Centenary in 2007 and invited other Sections to participate with appropriate events.
- (b) *Possible Amendments to the Rules*: In some countries, as in Switzerland and Uruguay, several Lodges are located in one town only. It was suggested that an amendment be proposed in the International Rules to the effect that one of the criteria for the TS in any country to obtain or retain the status of a Section should be that there is a minimum of seven Lodges in different locations in that country. Alternatively, a policy might be adopted that Lodges should normally be distributed in various places, with the President having discretion in administering the policy.

Further, it might be helpful to amend the International Rules to make it clear that, when the TS in any country loses its status as a Section or Regional Association, it does not forfeit its property, which remains in trust for the theosophical work in the country concerned.

- (c) *World Congress*: The Italian Section has offered to host the next World Congress, which might be in the year 2010.

